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CHRYSA'L:

OR, THE
ADVENTURES
OF A
GUINEA.

WHEREIN ARE EXHIBITED
VIEWS of several striking SCENES:

WITH
Curious and interesting ANECDOTES of the
most Noted Persons in every rank of Life,
whose hands it passed through,

IN
AMERICA, ENGLAND, HOLLAND,
GERMANY AND PORTUGAL.

—Hold the Mirror up to Nature,
To shew Vice its own image, Virtue its own Likeness,
And the very Age and Body of the Times
His form and Pressure. SHAKESPEARE.

Qui capit, ille facit.

Charles By an ADEPT Johnstone.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. WATSON, M. PEARCE, S. LEWIS,
G. LONGMAN, and W. CROWDER.

M DCC LXXV.

CHRISTIANITY

OF THE

ADVANCED

CULTURE

VIEWS OF THE



IN

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

NEW YORK

1880

LIBRARY

OF THE

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OF THE

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

WILLIAM PITT, Esq.
 &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

THE Publiſher of theſe papers is ſenſible, that the time devoted to the care of nations, is too valuable to be ſpared to the peruſal of them; yet he ſhould think himſelf guilty of a breach of the general gratitude, which, at this time, ſwells every honeſt heart in *Britain*, if he omitted to lay at your feet, a work, in which every occaſion of diſplaying the bleſſings of a good adminiſtration, appears to have been ſought with pleaſure, and dwelt upon with judgment.


THE genius of my author was evidently ſo averſe to adulation, that it would be doing him the ſevereſt injuſtice, to join any thing to his work, which even envy could

possibly pervert to such a motive, by insinuating, that the pictures he draws, in many places, of national good conduct, and the happy effects of it, are a panegyric on present, not a representation of imaginary scenes.

A SENSE of this precludes me from the pleasure of illustrating his remarks with particular instances; but, in return for that painful self-denial, I must be indulged in a profession of the joy, with which I (as must every *Briton* whose heart feels for his country) congratulate myself, on my happy fate, in living under an administration, in which the flights of imagination of a visionary recluse, dead so many years ago, may be taken for a relation of the real events of the present times.

HERE my address to Mr. PITT must stop! But nothing can ever stop my prayers to Heaven for the preservation and happiness of a life, on whose labours the welfare, not only of this mighty empire, but also of the greater part of *Europe*, do now so eminently depend.

A BRITON.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE very favourable reception, which the former edition of this work, mutilated and imperfect as it was, met with from the Public, has encouraged the Editor to use every possible means, for the recovery of the rest of the manuscript.

Such an attempt was necessarily tedious, troublesome, and expensive in going to all the customers of the chandler's shop, where it was first met with, prevailing upon them to search cup-boards, holes and corners, wherever they might possibly have laid up any thing that was wrapped in it, and purchasing the scraps which could be found; for such an inquiry made them naturally imagine, that the papers were of some, considerable value, and of course demand an extravagant price for them.

His own trouble and expence he thinks well rewarded, by the many most curious and interesting parts of the work, which he had the good fortune to recover; and he hopes the Public will excuse the unavoidable delay of this impression, on the same account.

The parts thus recovered, he has inserted in their proper places, without any ostentatious mark or note; and though they amount to very near a third part of the whole, as it now stands, and would have been amply sufficient to have made another volume; to evince the sincerity of his grateful desire to give pleasure to his readers, and acquit himself of all suspicion of mercenary design, he has added them to this edition, by printing it in a smaller letter than the former, and by that means avoided enhancing the price.

He had flattered himself, that the candid account of the manner in which this work came into his hands, which he prefixed to the former edition, would have obviated every insinuation of its being levelled at particular characters; but every puny critic was so fond of shewing his sagacity, by finding out resemblances, and so zealous in support of his conjectures, that the editor's honest intention was in a great measure disappointed.

The dissingenuity and absurdity of this is evident! in painting a number of faces, though merely from the artist's imagination, if he designs well, and imitates nature with judgment, it is impossible but many features will have a likeness to many persons, whom he may have never seen or thought of, as they are all drawn from the same prototype with theirs.

This is the reason of the resemblance between particular persons; and as justly might it be said, that wherever this appears, the parties must be brothers, as that, in a general description of nature, every feature that happens to resemble any particular person, was drawn from him.

Between these accidental resemblances of nature, and the designed ones of art, there is always this difference, that the latter bear in every part, whereas the others hit only upon one or two particular features. Thus HOGARTH, or HONE, shall take off such a likeness, not only of the features and shape, but also of the air and sentimental expression of the whole face and person, that the nicest eye shall not find the least difference between the work of the pencil, and that of the hand of Nature; whereas there never was such a resemblance in any two instances of the latter, that there was not some difference, that immediately and essentially distinguished them from each other.

This, invariably just, observation will, to every candid mind, vindicate this work from the most distant imputation, of aiming at particular characters, and in the resemblances, which have been most confidently alleged, there are many features so utterly unlike, many differences so essentially irreconcilable with the fancied originals that the injustice of such a charge must instantly appear.

This is another proof of this performance being a work of mere imagination, which will scarce be disputed by those who may not attend to the force of this reasoning, just and conclusive as it is; which is, that it was published a considerable time, before many of the events, which it seems most particularly to describe, happened; such, for instance, as the attempt of the *Dutch* in *India*, the forbidding to attempt influencing parliamentary elections, and many others, which, the judicious reader must be sensible, there was not the least reason to direct the most distant expectation of.



P R E F A C E

(To the first EDITION)

BY THE PUBLISHER.

TO acquit myself of the suspicion of presuming to aim at particular characters in the following Work, should any fancied likeness be thought to direct any application, as well as do justice to the real author of it; I think it my duty to make known the manner by which it happened to come into my hands.

As I was walking one morning, last summer, along *White Chapel*, I was obliged to take shelter from a shower of rain in a cottage near the turnpike. The family were at breakfast, at their tea, and, as the rain continued, I had leisure to reflect on the advantages of commerce, which thus, in a manner, joins the opposite extremities of the earth, by bringing their products together; at the same time, that the variety in the equipage of the tea-table, or indeed, stool, on which “there was nothing of a piece,” suggested a just ridicule on the vanity of luxury.

This last reflection was extended to all the pursuits of man, on the sight of a piece of written paper that served instead of a plate to hold their butter,——
“Who knows (thought I) but the writer of this bestowed time and care upon it, and promised himself both profit and fame, in reward of his labour?”

This thought prompted curiosity to look at the paper, which, by this time, was scraped quite clean. I therefore, after a few words of conversation, to intro-

duce my request, desired leave to see it, which was readily granted; when I was surprised to find my conjectures, as I imagined, confirmed, by its appearing to be part of some regular work.

Curiosity had now a stronger motive, than idle gratification! I asked where they had got that paper; and on their telling me at the chandler's shop next door, though this discouraged me a good deal, I resolved to pursue my inquiry, and went to the shop, as if for some snuff, which, as I expected, was given me on a piece of the same paper.

The rain still giving me a pretence for delaying there, I entered into discourse with the woman, and, among other idle questions, asked her where she usually got paper to wrap her wares in, to which she answered, " Sometimes from the public offices, and sometimes from the booksellers and printers; and, when she was disappointed at those places, she was forced to buy brown paper, which was much dearer; though, at present, she made use of some old stuff that had lain a great while lumbering her garret, having belonged to a lodger of her mother's, who died many years ago."

I then changed the discourse, for fear she should perceive my design; but presently seeing her going to tear more, for somebody else that came in, I could not forbear any longer, but offered her brown paper for all the written paper she had, *as that was most proper for some work I designed*, which she readily agreed to, and sold me her whole stock for eighteen-pence.

This adventure put an end to my walk; so I took the first coach that went by, and hurried home to examine my purchase, which I found to consist of a number of fragments, upon various subjects, whether originally left unfinished, or torn thus in the chandler's shop, it was impossible to say: and, among the rest, the following work, which seemed to have undergone

a different, though not much better fate, being blotted in many places, often paragraphs, and sometimes whole pages being erased ; and, what was worse, this havoc was made in the most curious and entertaining part of the whole, *the philosophy of the nature and agency of spirits.*

The oddity of this collection made me resolve to try if I could learn any thing of the author, from the woman of the shop where I had made my purchase ; accordingly, I called upon her one evening, as if merely by accident, and sending for a pint of wine, to set her tongue a going, I no sooner hinted my desire, than she directly gave me the following account, which I shall repeat as nearly as possible, in her own words, -shortening it only of expletive exclamations and repetitions.

“ My father (said she) dying young, and leaving
“ his family but poorly, my mother took this shop
“ to help her to bring up three children, of whom I,
“ the eldest was but five years old. The times being
“ hard, she was obliged to make every honest shift,
“ and therefore took in lodgers, and, among the rest,
“ an elderly man who rented the garret to sleep in,
“ and a little turret in the garden, which he fitted
“ up for himself for a work-shop : but what business
“ he followed she never knew, as he let no-body see
“ him at work ; nor did she trouble herself to inquire,
“ as he always paid her punctually ; but she imagin-
“ ed he was a smith of some sort, from the quantities
“ of charcoal he burned, and the constant blowing of
“ his bellows.

“ In this place he spent all his time, often not
“ quitting it for whole days and nights together, till
“ hunger has forced him to crawl like a starved rat
“ out of his hole, to get a bit of victuals.

“ At first my mother was uneasy at this, and ima-
“ gining he must be *out of his mind*, or troubled in

“ conscience, she spoke about him to a worthy gentleman, a clergyman that lived in the neighbourhood ; but he coming to see him at a time when he had a clean shirt on, and had eat his victuals, and slept regularly for some time before, his discourse was so sensible and pleasant, that the doctor could not help telling him the cause of his visit, as a joke at my mother, to whom he said, when he was going away, that so far from being mad, he believed her lodger was the best scholar in the whole parish.

“ My mother’s good-nature had like to have lost her her lodger ; for as soon as the doctor was gone, he gave her warning ; but upon her promising never to be guilty of the like indiscretion again, nor trouble herself any farther about him, than just to give him what he should call for, he consented to stay.

“ From that time he lived among us as unnoticed as he could desire, following his business without disturbance from any one, nor appearing to give himself the least trouble about that of any other person living, except it was me, whom he taught to read, and said he would make his heir. An unhappy heirship, I am sure, for me ; for it hindered my marrying *Jack Twist* the rope-maker, who is now the toppingest man in all *Radcliff-highway*, and then offered to take me in my shift.

“ But there’s no help for that now ! Luck is all ! To be sure we thought he must be some extraordinary man, for he never wanted money, and then we used to hear him talking to himself sometimes, as if all the world was his own, of *building colleges, churches and houses, and altering St. Paul’s*, and I do not know what great things ; and, one day in particular, I remember he said, before us all, that, before seven years, he would hire an army, that should drive the *Pope* and the *Devil* (Lord bless us)

“ out of *Rome*; for to be sure, he would talk before
“ us, as if we could not hear him, as we would also
“ do any thing before him, as freely as if he was a
“ cat or a dog! Well, as I was saying it was no won-
“ der, to be sure, that such ignorant poor folks as
“ we, should think much of him, especially after
“ what the doctor said, and accordingly build great
“ hopes upon his promises.

“ He went on thus for near twenty years, no soul
“ ever coming near him, nor he going out, above
“ once or twice in a year, and then not staying above
“ an hour or two at a time.

“ At length his health began to break very much,
“ which made my mother often speak to him not to
“ work so hard, for he had been with us so long,
“ and was so quiet, and paid so honestly, that we all
“ loved him as if he was our father. But her advice
“ was all to no purpose; he still went on, bidding
“ her not trouble herself, nor be afraid about him.
“ But this did not satisfy her; and one day, when
“ he had been locked up from the morning before,
“ without having any victuals, or going to bed, she
“ resolved to break through his orders, and call him
“ to dinner.

“ When she came to the turret, which he called
“ his *laboratory*, she tapped gently at the door, but
“ receiving no answer, nor hearing any noise within,
“ she was so frightened, that she called me, to fetch the
“ kitchen pocker, with which she made a shift to
“ force it open, when we found the poor man stretch-
“ ed at his length upon the floor, to all appearance
“ dead.

“ This shocked us greatly; but we did not alarm
“ the neighbours, as we imagined there were things
“ of value there, that might be misplaced, or taken
“ away in the confusion: we therefore raised him up
“ ourselves, and after a little while, perceiving

“ conscience, she spoke about him to a worthy gentleman, a clergyman that lived in the neighbourhood ; but he coming to see him at a time when he had a clean shirt on, and had eat his victuals, and slept regularly for some time before, his discourse was so sensible and pleasant, that the doctor could not help telling him the cause of his visit, as a joke at my mother, to whom he said, when he was going away, that so far from being mad, he believed her lodger was the best scholar in the whole parish.

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“ dead.

“ This shocked us greatly ; but we did not alarm
“ the neighbours, as we imagined there were things
“ of value there, that might be misplaced, or taken
“ away in the confusion : we therefore raised him up
“ ourselves, and after a little while, perceiving

“ signs of life, carried him in and laid him in our
“ own bed, and pouring some drops into his mouth
“ and nose, at length brought him to himself; when
“ his first care was to enquire for the key of the turret, and whether any one else had been there, or
“ any thing in it stirred: our answers satisfying him,
“ he seemed quite easy, and in a little time recovered, to all appearance as well as ever.

“ From this time, he changed his way of life a good deal; and though he was much in the turret, which we observed he ever after called his *study*, and not his *laboratory*, he never sat up whole nights in it, as before, nor bought any more charcoal, nor even oil for his lamp, but went to bed orderly when we did.

“ But this change came too late, for, about six months after, we found him one morning dead in his bed; though he had been as cheery the evening before, as he had for a long time.

“ This was a great surprise and concern to us! But what avails grief? we must all die, and he was a very old man. As soon as we were certain that he was dead, the first thing my mother and I did, was to go to the turret, impatient enough to take possession of our heirship; where, Lord help our poor heads! what did we find? only a few great old books, and those papers you got; the very bellows, and tools, and pots that we saw there before, being all gone, and no more sign of a work-shop to be seen, than if it was not the same place we had been in but six months before. What he could have done with his things we could not imagine, for we never observed him to carry them out, so that we concluded he must have burned them.

“ This was a fore disappointment to me, not to mention the loss to my mother, to whom he owed

“ a quarter’s rent, besides an account of near twenty
“ shillings in the shop ; and seven shillings and two-
“ pence half-penny was all the money in his pocket ;
“ nor did we ever find one penny more after him,
“ though we searched close enough !—Well ! patience
“ is a remedy for all things, but death ! We were
“ forced to submit ; though I cannot help grieving,
“ when I think of it to this day, especially when I see
“ *Peg Sprout*, the green woman’s daughter from *Wap-*
“ *ping*, that *Jack Twist* married out of despair, when
“ I refused him, ride by in her chaise, like a lady ;
“ and it is now thirty years ago !—No let me see !
“ it will be exactly twenty-nine years come next
“ *Michaelmas* ; I am sure I have reason to remember it
“ well, for my poor mother took it so to heart, that
“ she never held up her head after, till it finished
“ her, in about nine years ; though I cannot say
“ but something else might have helped, for she took
“ cruelly to drinking drams, tho’ as she began it to
“ comfort her for this misfortune, it was all owing
“ to that ; and poor sister *Bett*, too.”—

I was obliged to interrupt her here, by asking her
what kind of a person he was, or she would have
gone on to give me the history of her whole family,
to which she answered thus, “ What sort of a man ?
“ I’ll tell you then : for I think I see him before my
“ eyes this minute. He was a tall thin man, above
“ six feet high, and no thicker than a watchman’s
“ staff, as I may say ; then his constant leaning
“ over his work bent his long back like a bow, espe-
“ cially as he had no belly to keep it up, for he lived
“ almost upon nothing, so that when he walked, the
“ length of his legs, and his great stoop, made him
“ look as if he had no body at all. As for his face,
“ it was as long as my arm, and not broader than
“ the edge of my hand ; his eyes were sunk half a
“ foot into his head and always covered with specta-

cles: his nose was hooked over his mouth, as his chin turned up an handful to meet that: and the constant toasting, over the charcoal, had shrivelled up his skin, so that his whole face looked as if it was covered with scorched parchment.—His dress (for I never knew him have but one) was a black coat, with little buttons all over it; which being made for him while he stood upright, now that he stooped so much, hung down to his ancles: a broad leather belt, that kept his coat about him; a cloak which he hung upon his shoulders, but was so worn, that it shewed his skeleton through every part of it; and an old high-crowned hat. In short, he had so little of the appearance of a creature of this world in his looks or dress, that whenever he went out in the day-time, the mob all gathered about him, and hooted him home, just as the little birds do an howl; and some of our wicked neighbours, when any accident has happened, have often threatened to take him up, and *dip* him for a witch, though I am persuaded, that was nothing but wickedness and malice, and that he knew no more harm than a baby.”

My curiosity being thus satisfied as to the author, there was but one thing more that I desired to know, and that was, how those papers came to have so many blots made in them, which by the difference of the ink, I could see was done long since the first writing? To which she answered, that some time after the old man's death, her mother let his apartment to one that called himself a clergyman, and was a great scholar, and used to make almanacs, and other books; that he had looked over those papers, and, she believed, taken out such as he liked, and done what he pleased with the rest; for they set no regard on them; and particularly she remembered to have heard him say, that he would make something of one of them;

but she believed he found it would not do, for he soon after left their house, and, joining with those methodists that were just then come up, went away with them, preaching about the country.

I thought it but reasonable to reward the good woman's expence of breath, with half a crown, and so took my leave, though with a secret resolution to give her half the profit, if there arises any, from the sale of the books; not thinking that such a purchase, as I had made from an ignorant woman, could give me a just title to the whole *beirship*, as she called it, that had cost her so dear, as the loss of her old sweetheart *Jack Twist*.

This good woman's account explained to me, in some measure, the nature of this work from the circumstances of the author, who, I could see, had been a Schemer, who had wasted his whole fortune in the search after the philosopher's stone, and having his eyes at length opened to his folly, though too late to remedy it, yet was able to divert the grief of his disappointment, by writing these papers, in ridicule of such notions, and from the sale of which he might also expect some relief in his wants.

How just this expectation might have been then, it is now very hard to say, in their present mutilated condition; or what could have moved any man to make such havoc in them; without it was, that the orthodoxy of the clergyman was offended at the author's notions, which he wanted judgment to see, were only a delicate ridicule of those wild, idle dreams which some men, who call themselves philosophers, have thought proper gravely to obtrude upon the world, as learning and knowledge.

But whatever the motive was, the loss is now irreparable, and has reduced the work to the appearance of a novel or romance, almost the whole philosophical part having been erased; for as to the personal appli-

cation of any thing in it, to the present times, the least attention to this account of the author will shew the absurdity and injustice of such an attempt ; as it was wrote so long ago, and by a person so little acquainted with the world, that all the stories in it must necessarily be the mere creatures of imagination.

For the manner in which they are published, I shall only say, that it is strictly agreeable to the faith of the text ; not one of the many alterations and interpolations, which were in another hand, being given ; but wherever I could not clearly make out the very words of the author, I honestly omitted the whole, not thinking it allowable, or just, to palm my own words or sentiments upon the world, on the credit of another.

How scrupulous I have been, in this point, will appear to any one, who shall take the pains of consulting the original manuscript, which shall be deposited in the public library of one of the universities, as soon as the work is printed : The only liberty I have taken, being in a few notes in the margin, and supplying a connection, where it was broken by any of the above-mentioned accidents,



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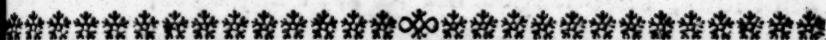
CHRYSA L:

OR, THE

ADVENTURES

OF A

G U I N E A.



CHAP. I.

The Apparition of CHRYSA L to an ADEPT, in the very moment of projection. His account of himself, and the cause of appearing to the author.

ON a day, when a long and strict abstinence had purified my body from every *terrene* incumbrance, and intense contemplation wound up my mind to an enthusiasm fit for *empyrean* conversation, as I stood with my eyes riveted on the *obstetric* flame, in strong expectation of the birth of the *mystic child*, the first born of the morning, ready to seize the happy moment, when the earth sufficiently impregnated with the water, ascendeth white and splendid, that I might compound the pure elements, before they fly from the fire, and so perfect the great work; my eyes began to dazzle, and the power of imagination

overwhelmed my soul.——I saw a blue effulgence break from the liquid gold, and play about the genial vase!——I was astonished! I thought it the *substantial form of the son of the son!* I thought the happy moment was come, when *the rose of the east should bloom in the desert*, and mine the favoured hand to cultivate its growth! I indulged the pleasing thought! I melted in the virtuous joy! and in obedience to the divine impulse, I kneeled to receive the reward of all my labours, *the radiant crown of wisdom and glory*, from the hand of Nature, with every sense and faculty suspended, for fear of interrupting the mysterious process.

As my soul hung in this extasy, the flame which wrapped the *sacred birth in the bed of purification*, arose with a glory too strong for mortal sense, and filled the room. My senses sunk under the pressure, and I was dissolved into a trance, when a voice, celestially harmonious, encouraged me to raise my eyes, and I beheld *the body of the effulgence condense into an incorporeal substance in the form of a spirit*, while a placid shade softened the fierceness of the radiance, and made it tolerable to human sense.

An holy horror curdled all my blood; but the melody of the same voice, which had before emboldened me to look up, re-assured my fainting heart with these words: “Son of pains and votary of science:
 “thy unwearied perseverance has prevailed, and I
 “am sent to crown thee with the virgin rose! I am
 “CHRYSALE*, the spirit of that incorruptible mass
 “now glowing in that vase before thee, who in re-
 “ward of thy noble constancy in offering this thy last
 “mite, on the shrine of knowledge, am come to re-

* This name is evidently derived from χρυσός Gold, and may probably signify Golden, from her animating a piece of Gold; for, by the universal authority of the occult philosophy, spirits are always denominated from their office.

“veal to thee the mysteries of Nature, and satisfy
 “that raging thirst for wisdom, which has so long
 “excruciated thy soul, and thus emaciated thy body!
 “And, that thou mayest the better comprehend the
 “greatness of this honour vouchsafed unto thee, I
 “shall trace the operations of Nature through her
 “most secret recesses, and illustrate the truth of what
 “I say, by a detail of the various incidents of my be-
 “ing in my present state, to prepare thee for the re-
 “ception and proper use of that *grand secret*, which
 “I shall afterwards communicate !

“I can see your thoughts ; and will answer every
 “doubt which may arise in your mind at the wonders
 “of my relation, without the interruption of your
 “inquiries, as *awful silence is the essence of my converse*,
 “the least breach of which puts an end to it for ever !
 “listen then in mute attention, nor let a breath di-
 “sturb the mystic tale !”——

The works of Nature are infinitely various, and her methods of operation inscrutable to the curiosity of that vain intruder *Reason*, which has of late presumed to pry into her ways, and to doubt, if not deny the reality of all effects, which her short-sighted eye cannot trace to their causes ! a presumption that has justly shortened the line of human knowledge, and condensed the mist of ignorance which overspreads the world ! some noble efforts though, I see the nature of man preparing to make, to recover that eminence of *conjecture* and *credulity*, which alone can merit such a communication of extraordinary knowledge as is now indulged to you. Some of the most hidden truths which I shall here unfold, has unassisted genius discovered already ; and more shall curious penetration make learned guesses at, even in this sceptic age. *

Know then, that in the œconomy of Nature, to

* See all the modern hypothetical philosophy.

ease the trouble, and keep up the state of its great author * *a subordination of ministerial spirits executes the system of his government in all its degrees; one of whom, for the greater order and expedition, is made to actuate every divided particle of matter in this immense universe.* In this distribution, that portion of gold was assigned to my charge, upon its first feeling the influence of the † *etherial fire of the sun, the general minister of the divine commands.* This happened in *Peru*, where that body of which I then became the spirit, was torn from its peaceful bed 200 fathoms deep in the bowels of the earth.

I shall not describe my surprise, at my first plunging into those realms of darkness, nor shall I satisfy the curiosity I see rising in you, whether that period was the beginning of my existence, or whether I was, either as a punishment or reward for a past, or a preparation for a future life, thrown into this. These are mysteries not yet discovered, though often most learnedly guessed at. All I shall unfold to you are points already known, or such as I see ready to be found out by human industry, as it would put an end to learning to make a revelation of the objects, of its inquiries! such matters, I say, I shall explain to you, and farther relate some occurrences, the knowledge of which will be equally useful and entertaining, which happened to the several persons with whom I have had intercourse, in the various stages of my present state.

And as you may be at a loss, to know how I could

* *Essay on Spirit.*

† *Siris*

— *Would not these, and many other passages of the same nature which support the systems of those celebrated works, almost tempt us to think, that the writers of them must have had a communication with this or some such spirit, to come at knowledge so supernatural?*

arrive at the knowledge of such facts, many of which happened long before my converse with those persons, I shall inform you, that besides that *intuitive knowledge* common to all spirits, we of superior orders, who animate this universal monarch GOLD, have also a power of entering into the hearts of the immediate possessors of our bodies, and there reading all the secrets of their lives. And this will explain to you the cause of that love of gold, which is so remarkable in all who possess any quantity of that metal. * *For the operation of every material cause is in proportion to the strength of the spirit actuating that cause; as the strength of the spirit is reciprocally in proportion to the quantity of his material body: and consequently, when the mighty spirit of a large mass of gold takes possession of the human heart, it influences all its actions, and overpowers, or banishes the weaker impulse of those immaterial, unessential notions called virtues.* And this intuition, and power of transmigration I have thus explained, to remove every shadow of doubt of what I shall relate.

CHAP. II.

CHRYSAE gives an account of the person who dug up his body in the mine. The particular manner of his acquiring the knowledge of his life, with an explanation of the nature of memory and consciousness.

THE first object that struck me, when I darted on the power of a sun-beam, into those infernal regions where my body was just dug up, was the person in whose hands it was when I took possession of it.

* *Essay on Spirit.*

Dark as the gloom of such a place must be, a melancholy that doubled the horrors of it, sat upon his brow. He gazed a moment on *me**, in silent grief, and then groaned out these words, with a vehemence that seemed to burst his heart: " Damned, damned, " pernicious damning gold! how dearly do I pursue this momentary possession of thee! but let " me acknowledge the justness of my fate! I wished " only for gold, and now, this equivocal grant of " that wish, is the just punishment of the folly, and " the wickedness of it."—Grief here choked his utterance! he could say no more, but sobbed aloud, while all the dreary caverns echoed to his anguish.

Curiosity prompted me to learn the cause of his distress: I therefore immediately entered into his heart, to read the events of his life, which I doubted not but I should find deeply imprinted there: but I was surprised to find that room in it, which, I could plainly see, had been possessed by the love of gold, so filled with sense of pain, with grief, and remorse, that I could scarce gain admission.

Upon this I mounted into the *sensorium* of his brain, to learn from the spirit of consciousness, which you call SELF, the cause of so uncommon a change, as it is contrary to the fundamental rules of our order, even to give up an heart of which we once get possession.

I found the spirit very busy, though I thought somewhat oddly employed: she was running over a number of *niches*, or impressions, on the fibres of the brain, some of which I observed she renewed with such force, that she almost effaced others, which she passed over untouched, though interspersed among them. The sight of *me* seemed to suspend her works a moment, but as if that pause was only to recover

* *Chrysal* must here mean the Gold which now became her body, as she does not say that she appeared in the spirit to any one before the author.

strength, she instantly renewed her labour with greater assiduity.

I looked at her, my desire to know the meaning of what she was doing, and to signify the cause of my visit, to which she returned me this answer in a glance, that interrupted not her work.

(I see you wonder that I speak of this spirit, though the SELF of a man, as if it was a female ; but in this there is a mystery ; *every spirit is of both sexes*, but as the female is the worthier with us, we take our denomination from that.)

You are surprised, (*looked she*) to find me so earnestly engaged in work which you do not understand ; but in this work consists my very essence. This place, where we are, is the seat of memory ; and these traces which you see me running over thus, are the impressions made on the brain by a communication of the impressions made on the senses by external objects—These first impressions are called IDEAS, which are lodged in this repository of the memory, in these marks, by running which over, I can raise the same ideas, when I please, which differ from their first appearance only in this, that, on their return, they come with the familiarity of a former acquaintance*.

How this communication though is made, I cannot so well inform you ; whether it is by the oscillation of the nervous fibres, or by the operation of a certain invisible fluid, called animal spirits on the nerves ; no more than I can explain to you, how my touching these marks, on this material substance the brain, can raise ideas in the immaterial mind, and with the addition of acquaintance beside ; for these are matters not quite fully settled among the learned.

All I know is, that the thing is agreed to be so by some, or other, or all of these means ; and that my whole employment, and end of being, is to touch

* See all the modern philosophy.

them over, and acknowledge their acquaintance thus; without my doing which a man would no longer continue the same person, for in this acquaintance, which is called *consciousness*, does all personal identity consist*.

As for the work I am just now particularly engaged in, you must know, that this man whom, as I am *his self*; I shall henceforth, for conciseness and perspicuity, call *my self*, was once possessed of, or in power of possessing, every real happiness of life, till an insatiable desire of riches hurried him into measures which overturned all that happiness, and in the end plunged him into this gulph of misery.

The traces of that happiness are those which you see me pass over without renewing; by which means he forgets that he was ever happy, except some times, when the trace of any particular unhappiness comes so near that of any instance of happiness, as unavoidably to touch it; which touch, by the renewal of the idea of such happiness, only aggravates the sense of the present want of it: And thus *I* make memory either a blessing or a curse, according to the nature of the trace which *I* renew.

I see you are astonished, how a person who was ever happy could possibly fall into such misery as *I* am now in; but I shall remove that astonishment by the history of *my* life, in which I shall accomodate my accounts of places and things to the circumstances of my present state without regard to the universality of *our* spiritual nature: and call them by their names among men, without the delay or trouble of description.

* Locke,

C H A P. III.

The history of TRAFFICK. His father's advice to him ; containing some general observations on the nature and end of trade ; with rules to ensure success in it.

MY name is *Traffick* ; I was the only son of a wealthy merchant in London, who bred me to his own business. There was nothing remarkable in my youth, except that the characteristic passion of my heart, shewed itself, in the very dawn of reason, in my eagerness to engross and hoard up the bawbles of my play-mates, and the far-fetched schemes I laid to over-reach them in all our little bargains.

My father was at first delighted with this cunning, which his fondness took for the first essays of a great genius ; but when he saw me persist in it after I grew up, and attempt to practice the same arts in the course of my business, it gave him serious alarms for my future conduct ; for he had ever been averse to these artifices which are called *the mysteries of commerce*, and owed his success solely to close application in the plain way of a fair trader.

But this caution I looked upon with contempt, as timidity and want of genius, and, undiscouraged by his constant repulses to all my *bold strokes* and deep schemes, which I was continually suggesting to him, I resolved, when I should be at liberty, to indulge my own inclinations, to strike out new ways, that should afford me opportunities of exerting my abilities in their full strength, and shewing them in their proper lustre.

The vanity which prompted avarice to form these designs, would so often break out in boasting, that my father was fully acquainted with them ; and a

sensible decline in his health quickening his apprehensions for me, his tenderness would omit nothing which might shew me my error, in its proper light, and prevent my falling into so destructive ways.

Calling me therefore into his closet one morning, he addressed me in these words ; words which dear experience has now printed deeply on my heart, though then they had no weight with me.

“ My son (said he) the day approaches fast, when
“ you will be in possession of the fruits of my honest
“ industry. I leave you a good fortune ; and I have
“ the happiness to be able to tell you, in this trying
“ moment, that no wilful private wrong, or public
“ fraud, makes me wish it were by one penny less.—
“ As therefore it was acquired in the fear of God, if
“ not abused, it will wear with his blessing. Habit
“ had so wedded me to my business, that I could not
“ leave it off myself ; and I bred you to it, to indulge,
“ as I thought, the bent of your genius, and to prevent
“ idleness from tempting youth to folly.—But
“ now that dangerous season is past with you ; and
“ the labour of my life has taken away all necessity
“ of labour from yours. Be wise then, my son, and
“ enjoy the happiness which Heaven offers you, without
“ tempting a reverse ! You will have riches,
“ more than enough, for every natural want, for
“ every rational wish ; and it will sweeten your enjoyment
“ of them, and draw down the blessings of
“ Heaven on your head, to employ the super-plus
“ in acts of private benevolence, and public spirit ;
“ in which best of employments, the abilities, with
“ which you are so liberally blessed, will find ample
“ room for their exertion ; and your pious endeavours
“ be rewarded with a success, that will be a happiness
“ to your life, and an honour to your name.

“ As for the profession of a merchant, to which
“ you have been bred. Heaven points it out to the

“ inhabitants of this country, by our situation ; nor
“ can any other be more advantageous to it ; but
“ still, even that advantage may be pursued too far,
“ and the extreme of industry may sink into avarice,
“ and so disappoint its own end.

“ For I must tell you, my son, that though trade
“ adds to the wealth, yet too eager a pursuit of it,
“ even with the greatest success, diminishes the
“ strength of a nation. I am sensible, that this is
“ against received opinion ; but truth, when properly
“ displayed, will force conviction.

“ The real strength of a nation consists in the prevalence
“ of disinterested spirit, which, regardless of
“ *self*, throws its weight into the public fund ; as
“ may be proved by many examples of small, poor
“ states, conquering large wealthy ones. Whereas
“ the spirit of commerce centers all in *self*, discouraging
“ and despising, as folly, every thought which
“ does not tend that way ; and so breaking that unanimity,
“ which is the very essence of power, and
“ can only give it success.—A reflection this, my son,
“ which observation confirms too strongly at present,
“ and which seems to overcast the prospect of this
“ happy nation.

“ My advice therefore to you is, to retire from
“ business, though not to idleness. You will have a
“ fortune that will make you of consequence in the
“ state, and give you sufficient employment in the
“ conduct of it, without embarrassing your mind with
“ anxiety for more. And to enable you to follow
“ this advice with the greater ease, I have settled all
“ my affairs, and shall leave you free from every entanglement
“ of life. This is the advice, the request
“ of a fond father who desires compliance from his
“ dear son, and would not force unwilling obedience,
“ by any act of authority or command. But should
“ the love of business have taken such an hold of your

“ heart, as habit gave it of mine, and not permit
 “ you to comply with this request, take, my son, the
 “ advice of experience, and hold fast the clue it of-
 “ fers to guide you through the labyrinths of trade,
 “ in which the vivacity of your genius may otherwise,
 “ lose its way. Nor are the rules, I shall hint to you,
 “ many to be remembered, or difficult to be observed.

“ *Be just, my son, in all your dealings ; wrong not in-
 “ dividuals ; nor defraud the public.*

“ These are all the rules I recommend : but in
 “ them is comprised more than, perhaps, appears at
 “ first view. Do not, therefore, think them too
 “ obvious to have been necessary to be repeated ! nor
 “ let the mention of them give offence, by any seem-
 “ ing implication of personal doubt.

“ In the business of a merchant these rules com-
 “ prehend a great extent of meaning, though I shall
 “ mention but a few instances of it at present.

“ As for the first, *every misrepresentation to mislead
 “ ignorance, or abuse credulity, every taking advantage
 “ by superior knowledge, is a wrong to the party, so de-
 “ ceived ; as every artifice to evade the intention of the le-
 “ gislature is a fraud against the public, nay, against your-
 “ self, and every individual who claims the benefits pro-
 “ vided by the ordinances, so defeated of their support.*

“ This is indeed so obvious, that it were an affront
 “ to reason to insist on any proof of it. The most
 “ eager pursuer of illicit trade will not vindicate a
 “ general indulgence of it ; and if it is not lawful
 “ for all, how can it be for him ; or with what colour
 “ can he claim a profit which he is conscious arises
 “ only from deceit, and from the benefit of those ve-
 “ ry laws which he thus defeats ?

“ The temptations to this breach of honesty, I
 “ own, are many and great, and some of them per-
 “ haps plausible : particularly in those branches of
 “ trade, which seem to bear a more than equal share

of the weight imposed for general advantage. But, in opposition to this, it must be considered, that it is impossible to provide so exactly for a thing, of so fluctuating a nature as trade, that the balance shall not incline, in some one instance ; and that it must, by the same motion which oppresses one, be favourable to some other ; and so preserve the equipoise in the whole ; and this obviates the only shadow of an argument, that can be brought in defence of this too common practice.

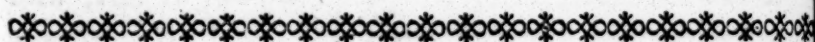
As for the former, of avoiding private wrong, that is more difficult and less defensible, if possible, than even this. For where all the powers of the mind are turned to *make* advantage, it is very hard to refrain from *taking* it, where we ought not, and bringing the great business of life into common practice, in its minutest concerns.

The man whose soul is on the stretch to take advantage, in a bargain for thousands, on the *Exchange*, will be apt perhaps insensibly to overlook an error that is not to his disadvantage, in a tradesman's bill, or to take no notice of a guinea given instead of a shilling in change at a tavern, though either is as great dishonesty, as if he took them in a manner punishable with death by the laws : not to mention the innumerable little instances of temptation to this kind of wrong, which occur in every moment's dealing. *That we may avoid temptation*, is one of the petitions of the divine prayer, and never more necessary to be offered up than in this profession, whose constant practice opens innumerable instances of it upon us.

In a word, my son, there are so many and so strong arguments of this nature to be given against all trade, that the general advantage of the common-wealth alone can, in any way, support it against them. This therefore should be written in

“ deepest characters, on the heart of every merchant;
 “ *that he should never let private interest tempt him to en-
 “ gage in any trade or scheme that can interfere with the
 “ public interest, or is forbidden by the laws of his country.*
 “ —I shall say no more; nor burthen your mind
 “ with farther advice. Observe this, and be happy.”

I was obliged to hear him; but his words, at that time, made no more impression on my mind, than the whistling of the winds, nor in the least altered my intentions, though I felt no scruple in promising obedience, the breach of which could never be upbraided to me, as I could not think of practising it, before his death would remove the only person who had such an authority.



CHAP. IV.

The history of TRAFFICK continued: His father's death. He continues in trade, and turns schemer. His various schemes end in his ruin. The rise and progress of his passion for AMELIA. The base abuse of her confidence, by which he cheated her of the greatest part of her fortune, and afterwards formed dishonourable designs against herself.

THE opportunities which I had long panted for, arrived too soon; my father dying just after I was of age, and leaving me possessed of wealth sufficient for me to exercise my talents on, as I was not blessed with prudence to take his advice, and put it to its proper use, in rational enjoyment.

I was immediately a man of consequence, and that, not only in my own eyes. I made a figure *upon Change*; I signed among the foremost in the public subscriptions. But all this did not satisfy me. I sickened at the thought of having an equal, not only in wealth,

the darling object of my soul ; but also in the reputation of acquiring it by methods of my own *striking out*, as I looked upon the known course of business as too slow for my advances, and too limited for my genius.

I therefore immediately became a SCHEMER, and entered into every project which my own brain could invent, or artful imposition suggest to me, blindly, wilfully giving up the serenity of an open mind, for the vain appearance of mysterious consequence and design ; and making my fortune a prey to every sharking projector, who flattered my vanity with promises of success, in the very attempts which had been his own ruin.

The perplexity in which this infatuation soon involved my affairs, far from opening my eyes, only set me upon deeper schemes. *Sporting* upon private adventures, *taking* in unwary confidence, *flinging* the fair trader, by eluding the restrictions of law, were now too small a game for me : I was entangled, and must cut the *Gordian knot* by some bold stroke.

I therefore threw off all restraint, and entered into measures the most injurious to my country, which was then engaged in a just and extensive war. I *insured* the effects of its enemies, and of consequence gave them information how to avoid its force. I *carried on their trade* with other countries I *supplied* them with provisions from ours ; and at length went so far, as to *lend*, and *procure them money*, to support the war against ourselves.

But all my schemes met their just fate. Though I could give their ships information how to avoid our squadrons, yet they fell into the hands of *unstationed* privateers. My subterfuges for carrying on their trade were seen through, and a stop put to them before I could receive the stipulated profit. The stores I bought for them were intercepted by our fleets, and, to conclude all, the enemy, by one stretch of arbitrary power,

refused to pay any debts, and appropriated the funds provided for that purpose to the present support of the war.

This finished my ruin: I had not only lent them all my fortune, but had also borrowed much more to supply them, on confidence in their promises, than I was now able to pay.

In this situation, the advice of my father returned full upon me, and aggravated my distress. But I had no time for reflection: the horrors of a jail stared me full in the face, which I had no way to avoid but by flight, the equivocalness of my character having made every honest man, who was able to assist me, afraid of being concerned with me.—I therefore immediately raised all the money I possibly could, and embarked secretly in a ship of my own for *Jamaica*; Heaven to make its justice the more signal, using my blackest guilt as a chain to draw me to the vengeance I deserved.

I must stop here, and look back, to give you an account of an affair, which the precipitancy of my ruin prevented my mentioning in its proper order.

Much as such a complicated scene as I have described, must have taken up my time and engrossed my thoughts, I had still found leisure for guilt of another nature, though ultimately springing from the same cause.

I have told you that my father had acquired his own fortune by industry; but as the greatest industry requires a foundation to work upon, his had been assisted by the person to whom he served his apprenticeship, who knowing his abilities, and confiding in his honesty, upon the decline of his own health, established him in partnership with his only son, whom he thought too young to conduct so extensive a business.

My father faithfully executed this great trust, and continued the partnership, till his observation of my unfortunate disposition determined him to make me

quit business; when it was dissolved, without the least breach in that real friendship which had so long subsisted between them. Though I did not obey my father's desire, and retire from business on his death, yet my vanity would not admit a thought of recommending the partnership, as it would have been but a curb on my favourite *schemes*, and have implied a want of assistance, which, in my own opinion, I was far above. On the contrary, I rather declined too close a connection with him in business; as I feared he might have taken upon him to interpose his advice against any thing which his *narrow, fearful* temper might disapprove in my *great* designs; but as I kept up every other appearance of regard, and even respect for him, this shyness was not observed, nor any coolness occasioned by it, in the intercourse of intimacy between us.

But for this conduct I had another motive, besides regard for *him*. He had an only daughter, enriched with every beauty and virtue that could mark the favourite work of heaven: she was about four years younger than I, which difference of age had given me an opportunity of treating her with such a fondness from her very infancy, as raised a real love in her grateful heart, as her beauties did the strongest one it was capable of feeling, in mine. Our fathers had seen this growing attachment, with the greatest pleasure, from the beginning, and encouraged it between us, (our mothers both died in our infancy), joining in the general opinion, that the union which had always been between their families would be completed by the intermarriage of their children: an opinion that was then my pride, and seemed a pleasure to the young *Amelia's* honest heart, that was above disguise.

But my father's death, before she was of an age to undertake the care of such an awful state, and a long illness of her father's after, during which her filial

piety and love would not admit a thought of any thing that should interfere with her tender regard for him, prevented my happiness from being accomplished, while there was any obstacle that could hinder my evil genius from defeating it.

At length, after languishing five years her father died, without a moment's more immediate warning, having been on the *Exchange* that day as usual.

In the tumult of this loss, I was sent for; and no will being found, for he unhappily had not imagined his end so near, nor made any settlement of his affairs, in the confidence of our attachment, *Amelia* gave every thing into my hands, and requested me to make up all her father's accounts, and conclude her dealings with the world.

This happened just as my *scheming* had begun to embarrass my affairs. My heart therefore, never proof to much temptation, yielded to such an opportunity of recovering the losses of my folly at her expence, by sinking the greatest part of her fortune to my own use; never considering that I might have the whole in a just and honourable way, enhanced with the greater blessing of herself.

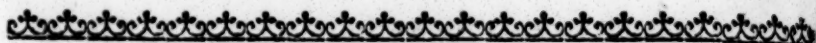
To accomplish this design, and prepare her for what was to follow, I pretended to *Amelia*, that I found many difficulties in her father's affairs; and having secreted as much as I thought proper, and could with safety, and destroyed every memorial that might detect me, for all which her unbounded confidence gave ample opportunity, I at length gave her in an account, with the strongest expressions of concern, "to find that what I had long apprehended was too true, and that her father's affairs were in a very bad situation; that I had however, with great difficulty, got together something above 10,000*l.* and was convinced, that this perplexity in his affairs, was the occasion of his long illness, and had not left him

“ spirit enough to enquire into them, and make a will.”

This representation had the effect I designed; *Amelia's* confidence in me would not admit a thought of my deceiving her; as pride, too powerful in the purest human heart, prevented her revealing her circumstances to any one else, who might have attempted to disprove what I said; though indeed it was scarce natural to suspect me of a deceit, that, according to the opinion which then prevailed concerning *Amelia* and me, could only affect myself.

She, therefore, with an appearance of surprise rather than doubt, or even concern, acquiesced, and signed a receipt in full, desiring me to destroy all her father's books and papers, as they could be of no farther use to her.

This completed my design beyond a possibility of detection, and even raised a new one against the poor pittance I had left her, though it was not quite a fourth part of what was really her right: for I had now thrown off all thoughts of marriage with one *so far beneath me in fortune*, looking upon it as a reproach to my wisdom and knowledge of the world, to make any bargain in which I should not have the advantage: for what I had so basely defrauded her of, I considered merely as an acquisition of my superior skill in business, and absolutely my own, without any manner of obligation to the person from whom I had obtained it: not that I had lost my *desire* for her person, (the only degree of love my heart was capable of feeling) but the advantage I had it now in my hopes to obtain over her, made me look upon her as a sure prey to my pleasure.



CHAP. V.

Continued. He cheats AMELIA of the residue of her fortune, and marries another woman. AMELIA sues him at law, is cast, and goes for JAMAICA. He is ruined, and follows her.

THOUGH my whole life was one continued scene of villainy, yet in all, there was a gradation, a regular descent from bad to worse; each successful crime opening new opportunities and suggesting schemes which never entered into my thoughts before.

This was exactly my case with regard to *Amelia*. While she was in possession of her whole fortune the highest wish of my heart was to marry her; but no sooner had an unhappy accident given me an opportunity of defrauding her of far the greatest part of it, than that respectful love immediately sunk into loose desire, and my success in my former schemes against her, set my thoughts at work to accomplish the gratification of this passion, on my own base terms.

To bring this design to perfection, it was necessary that I should get her fortune entirely into my power; which I accordingly formed schemes to accomplish without delay: for the success of my former attempt, so far from satisfying my avarice, or raising any sense of compassion in my breast, for her wrongs, had made me look upon herself, and all that belonged to her, as my property, which I was as impatient to possess, as if it was detained from me by injustice.

I therefore took occasion one day, when we were alone together, to drop some words of concern, at my not having immediately by me, a sum of money to lay out on most advantageous terms, which had been that very morning proposed to me.

She directly took the hint, and said, her little fortune was still in her hands, in the same bank notes I had given her; and if the use of it, for any time, could be of any advantage to me, she should feel a greater pleasure in my taking it, than in any profit she could make of it any other way.

This is just what I wished; and though I could scarce refrain from laughing at the easiness with which she took the bait, I would not accept of her offer but with this restriction, that I would consider whether the terms proposed to *me* might not suit *her*, and be more advantageous than the interest I could afford her if I should make use of it myself. I said this with an equivocal smile, which she understood as I would have her, and immediately, with an assenting blush, put the notes into my hand, without requiring a receipt or any kind of acknowledgment for them.

Having thus gained that which I reckoned the better part of *Amelia*, and sure, as I imagined, of herself when necessarily should humble her to my designs, as I had her whole means even of subsistence in my power, I directly resolved to close with an offer, some time before made me by a wealthy merchant, of a large fortune with his daughter, whom I accordingly married a few days after I had got possession of *Amelia's* money.

I shall spare myself the pain of any farther description of my wife, than that she was the very reverse of *Amelia* in soul and body; and my marriage consequently as unhappy as I justly deserved.

But I comforted myself with hopes of happiness in the enjoyment of *Amelia*, whom I had looked upon as my own, and only deferred making my base proposal to, till her resentment at my marriage should cool, and I could devise some plan of privacy to elude the vigilance of my wife. Not but I dreaded the first emotions of her anger, which I expected to break out in loud complaints.

But I was mistaken, in measuring her soul thus by my own. She scorned to complain ; nor did I hear a word from her to interrupt the riot of my wedding. A greatness of soul, so far above my comprehension, that I attributed it to fear of giving offence to one, in whose power she must be sensible she was.

But at the end of the month, I was awoke from those dreams, by a message from her, delivered by a relation of her's, to desire I should pay in her money to him, for which he would give me her receipt. As I was not prepared for this, I believe it threw me into a confusion too visible ; but I soon recovered presence of mind enough to answer, that “ I could not but be
 “ surprised at such a demand, as *Amelia* must be sen-
 “ sible, that I had paid her all the money of her's
 “ that was in my hands, for which I had her discharge
 “ in full.”

The gentleman replied in astonishment, “ Her discharge, Sir ! that was when you *settled* her affairs ;
 “ but she says, that she, since then, gave her whole
 “ fortune into your hands, to lay out for her. And
 “ Sir, *my* cousin is neither a fool nor a liar ; though
 “ I fear she has suffered severely for her ill-placed
 “ confidence.”——“ Perhaps she says so, Sir, (said
 “ I) but I know nothing of the matter, and am not
 “ accountable for what she says or you think, Sir ; and
 “ I suppose, if your cousin is not a fool, she has not
 “ money without something to shew for it.—But
 “ you must excuse my talking any longer on so idle a
 “ subject ; and so, Sir, your servant.”——The mind was now sprung, and I waited with impatience for the event. As to her demand, I knew she could never support it, as there was no person present when she gave me the notes ; and I had negotiated them in a manner beyond all possibility of their being traced.

While I was hugging myself in this security, the friends of *Amelia* persuaded her to bring a bill in

Chancery against me, in which the whole affair was set forth without any exaggeration. But this I made light of, as I had *my lawyer* ready, under whose directions I swore such an answer as set her charge entirely aside.—Elate with this success, I thought this the time to pursue my victory, and wrote her a letter, in which I attributed every thing in my conduct of late, that might have surpris'd her, to love, and despair of obtaining her by any other method; and offered her a settlement above the demand she had made to me, if she would consent to my desires. This I wrote in such general terms, that my letter could not be brought in evidence against me, and the largeness of the offer was only to decoy her into a treaty, their being nothing farther from my thoughts than ever to make her independent of my pleasure.

This insult only added new fuel to her resentment; and all the answer I received, was by another bill; but this met the same fate, by the same methods, with the former.

After this I heard no more of *Amelia* for some time: but what was my astonishment, when I was informed, that she had sold off her jewels, and other little effects, and was gone to a relation of her's, who lived in *Jamaica*! This broke all my designs; and despair of ever obtaining her awoke my love, and aggravated my remorse for my ill usage of her, almost to madness.

From this time the hand of Heaven seem'd to be upon me; every thing I had any concern in, miscarried; and to hasten on my ruin, my house was a perfect sink of riot and debauchery; my wife, as she had no charms to excite desire, in a manner publicly purchasing the gratification of her lusts at the most extravagant expence, and living in a profusion that must destroy even a royal fortune.

Mine, great as it had been, sunk under so many dissipations of all kinds; and I had no resource left,

as I said before, but in precipitate flight, which Heaven made my Passion for *Amelia* direct to *Jamaica*, to mark the justice of its vengeance the more plainly.



CHAP VI.

Conclusion of the history of TRAFFICK. He arrives in Jamaica, where he learns that AMELIA had been taken by the Spaniards. He turns buccanier, and ravages the Spanish coasts, where he finds AMELIA. Just as he is going to seize her, he is taken prisoner by her husband. He is condemned to die. He sues to AMELIA for mercy; she rejects him with abhorrence. His punishment is changed from death to the mines.

I HAD hitherto varnished over my villanies with hypocrisy, and strove to preserve some appearance, at least, of virtue. But this was a restraint no longer possible, nor indeed profitable to me now, when my flight took off the veil, and alarmed all mankind against me; so that mine was really a state of war with all the world.

On my arrival in *Jamaica*, I had the addition to my grief to find, that *Amelia* had been taken in her passage thither by a *Spanish* privateer.

This drove me to despair: I was wearied of life; but resolved not to die unrevenged on those who had thus, as I thought, robbed me of my hopes; never reflecting on the improbability of her hearkening to my suit.

Burning with this project, I fitted out my ship, and manned her with a crew as desperate as myself; resolving, though the war was at an end, to pursue my revenge upon the *Spaniards*, on the defenceless coasts

of their *American* dominions, in which my other passions were urged to haste, by fear of my creditors, the news of my failing having come to *Jamaica* almost as soon as myself.

We therefore set out upon our cruise, or rather piracy, without delay, of which I shall not raise your horror with any farther particulars, than that we went directly into the *Spanish Main*, where we not only rifled all the ships we met, but also made descents on the coasts, and ravaged with a barbarity that was a reproach to human nature.

The tumult and hurry of this life kept my spirits in an agitation that gave a kind of respite to my grief; and the spoil we made in our first enterprises was so great, as to awake hopes of restoring my affairs, so as to enable me to return to *England* with all the credit wealth could give.—And could I have known when to stop, I was soon rich even beyond my most sanguine hopes: But urged by avarice, and encouraged by success, I still went on headlong to my fate, which I met in an attempt upon a town some way up in the country, the convenience and pleasantness of whose situation had made it the residence of the richest families in the whole province; as its distance from the coast made them live in a state of perfect security, without any fortification or guard.

To this place we directed our march, one evening, and arrived at it a little after midnight, with an intention to surprise the inhabitants, and return to our ship with the spoil, before the country could rise to intercept us.

The first part of our design succeeded, and we got possession of the town without an resistance; where we committed all the outrages, and roamed about with the licentious carelessness of free booters under no command.

While every one thus prowled about for prey, fate

goaded me to an arbour in a garden, whither I followed the cries of women! I was just rushing in among them, inflamed with brutal desire, when—what was my astonishment to see *Amelia*, in the most magnificent undress, throwing heaps of gold and jewels into a vault that opened by a trap-door into the arbour. I stood motionless at the sight for some moments, in distrust of my senses, but two such objects as she and her riches, soon awoke me from my trance, and I advanced to take possession of both, resolving not to discover myself till a more proper time; the strangeness of my dress, that was designed to strike horror, and the blood which, from scenes of cruelty and murder just committed, still reeked upon my hands and face, making it impossible that she should know me.

At the sight of me, the women all shrieked, and *Amelia*, as I advanced to lay hold on her, fell into a swoon. This embarrassed me greatly, as I had no time to lose, for our centinels just then sounded a retreat. However, I thought I would wait a little, to see if she recovered, and stooping to raise her to give her air, I received such a blow from behind, as deprived me of all sense for several hours; when, on my recovering, I found myself chained on the ground in a dungeon.

I was some time before I could believe my senses, or conceive where I was; but I soon found my fate when the jailor coming to see if I was alive, gave me to understand, that my companions had gone off with out me, and left me in the hands of a nobleman, who had himself knocked me down, as I was going to commit a rape upon his lady while she lay in a swoon, and that I had been thrown into this dungeon, that if I recovered, I might suffer the punishment due to the outrages we had committed both here, and in the several other places of their dominions.

I wanted no further information to shew me the

horrors of my situation. I saw them all, and aggravated an hundred fold, by the accusations of my own conscience, that could now trace the hand of Heaven in the justice of my punishment, which had thus overtaken me, in the presence, and on the account of *Amelia*.—I wished for death, as my only relief, and determined to seek it: But, alas; my resolution failed me; and I feared to die. In this misery I was dragged before a magistrate, who, enumerating the crimes we had been guilty of, condemned me to immediate death—This sentence, so much milder than my fears, awoke an hope of farther mercy, to obtain which, my evil genius suggested it to me, to apply to *Amelia*, absurdly flattering myself, that some sparks of her love for me might yet remain alive, or, at least, her goodness take delight in shewing itself superior to my ill treatment. Base hope, that met its just reward!

I therefore waved attempting a defence of other crimes, as I was conscious, that I could not make any, but asserted my innocence, as to the particular charge of a base design upon *Amelia*, at the time I was taken, adding, that, “I had the honour of being nearly related to that lady, and that, if I was indulged with a few words with her, in the presence of all there, I hoped I might be found to merit a mitigation of my sentence.”

On my mentioning the name of *Amelia*, I observed one of the principal persons in the court, whom I soon understood to be her husband, kindle into rage. He did not however interrupt me; but as soon as I had concluded, he started up, and exclaimed with the most furious indignation: “*Amelia* thy relation! No more than angels are related to devils, by springing from the same creator! Her virtues are dishonoured by the claim! But she shall appear and disprove the odious calumny.”—Saying which words, he instantly went for her, while an hollow murmur of surprize and de-

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testation made the silence of the court the more dreadful, and heightened the horrors of my suspense.

But I waited not long; *Amelia* soon appeared, led in by her husband, and being seated by the judge, “Where (said she, looking round with the serenity of conscious virtue) Where is the person who says he is related to me?”

The sight of her threw me into such a conflict of passions, that, without reflecting where I was, or how necessary it might be for me to raise her compassion by some moving address, that might soften the severity of her resentment for my former treatment of her, as well as assure her of my innocence of any base design against her person, in the condition she was in when I was taken, I could not forbear crying out in *English*, so I had spoken before in *Spanish*, in which I expressed myself but badly, “O *Amelia* hast thou then forgot me?”

At the sound of my voice she started, and, looking earnestly at me for a moment, fell upon her knees, and, lifting her hands and eyes to Heaven, she said aloud in *Spanish*, “O God, how signal is thy justice! Let me, let all the world acknowledge and adore it!”—And then rising and turning to her husband, who stood in amazement: “This, my lord (said she) this is the man of whom I have informed you: This is that *Traffick* whose base dishonesty obliged me to leave my native country; and so, by that providence which is able to turn the greatest misfortune into a blessing, was made the cause of my present happiness with you. I abjure all kindred with him; I desire he may be examined as to my story; and, if he can vary in the least from what I have told you, let me be condemned to the severest punishment, but that of staying longer in his sight, or ever seeing his face more.”

On this she withdrew, without deigning a look at

me : But her words had a proper effect upon my heart, and I resolved to do her justice. I therefore prevented her husband's command, and, in as few words as possible, related the black affair with the strictest truth. When I had concluded, her lord declared, that I had not only confirmed every thing she had told him, but also added many circumstances of my own guilt, which she had omitted or perhaps not known.

So complicated guilt seemed to require consideration to find out proper punishment, so I was remanded to my dungeon, but without the least encouragement to hope. The next day I was again brought into the court, where my former sentence was changed into that of being broke alive upon the wheel ; and this severity was said to be in justice to *Amelia*.

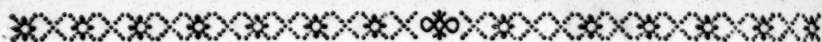
When I had stood some moments stupified with fear, the judge addressed me again in these words :
" Thou hast heard, O wretched man, the sentence
" due to thy crimes ; but great as they have been,
" mercy extends her hand to thee. The virtues
" of the illustrious *Donna Amelia* over-balance thy
" guilt, and have prevailed for a mitigation of
" thy punishment, in gratitude to that divine provi-
" dence which made thee the cause of her coming
" among us. Thou shalt not die, because we would
" not kill thy soul, before thou hast had time to
" repent of thy crimes, nor shalt thou suffer torture,
" that thy strength may not be impaired for the la-
" bour to which thy life is doomed ; for this is the
" last day thou shalt ever behold the light of Heaven :
" thou shalt immediately descend into the mines,
" there to work out the residue of thy unhappy days,
" in raising that gold for the use of others, the insa-
" tiable desire of which was the cause of all thy
" guilt."

I would have spoken in the agony of my soul, to desire death ; but I was stopped by the judge, who

sternly said, that to hear a word from me would be an insult upon justice. On his saying which, I was hurried away to the mountains over us, and precipitated into this gulph, where I have now been near——

Just as he said this, I was obliged to fly away to my body, which the unhappy *Traffick* had thrown from his hand, into the vessel in which it was to be raised from the mine.

The length of this story will make you wonder, when I tell you that the spirit of *Traffick* shewed it to me in a moment, for no longer did the gold remain in his possession: and I am always obliged to attend my body whenever it changes its master. But to understand this, you must be informed, that *we spirits do not distinguish our existence by time, or a succession of parts, as men do; with us, there is nothing past or to come, but every thing is present at one view, so far as the natural course of causes and effects is preserved free from interruption by superior power.*



CHAP. VII.

CHRYSALE pursues the history of his adventures. He explains some difficulties in his own nature. He is offered at confession to a priest. The confession and creed of a native PERUVIAN. The penance enjoined him by a Jesuit.

THERE is no crime, however black in its own nature, that does not receive an aggravation from hypocrisy; but the highest aggravation of this vice is, when it makes a pretext of the best institutions, to promote the practice of the worst actions. Of this I have seen innumerable instances, in the adventures of my present state; though none so flagrant as what I shall now relate.

You may imagine I felt pleasure at emerging from that infernal abyfs into light. There was nothing remarkable in the three or four first stages I went through, my temporary owners, being only the refiners and other tradesmen, who purified me from mixtures of mineral dross.

I see you are desirous to know how I could preserve my identity, when melted down with large quantities of the same metal. But you must know, that *spirits have a power of expanding or contracting themselves into what dimensions they please; and that their life is not confined to any particular parts, at the heart or head, as in man, but is diffused through their whole bodies, so that any part being separated from the rest, does not die* * ; but that portion of spirit which was in it, at the time of such separation, serves as a life for it, and becomes a distinct spirit, to inform that distinct body, and so on, ad infinitum † ; for as it is agreed upon, that bodies can be infinitely divided, upon the same principles spirit must also; for it would be most absurd and impious to deny of the superior any perfection which we attribute to the inferior—The enlarging of my body, therefore, by the addition of more matter, or the lessening it by ever so many divisions, makes no alteration in my sameness, so long as my consciousness remains ‡ : *The former only increasing my energy, by the accession of so much spirit as informed the additional matter* || ; for *we spirits embody ourselves entirely by commixion, and resolve into one* § ; as the latter separates us again into distinct beings, to animate our separated bodies.

The first absolute owner to whom I belonged, was a native Peruvian, who had found means to purloin a considerable quantity of gold, part of which I was,

* Milton.

‡ Locke.

§ Milton.

† Essay on Spirit.

|| Essay on Spirit.

and who presented me, as a peace-offering to an ecclesiastic at confession.

I see you have a curiosity to know my sentiments on religious matters; but I have told you before, that I am not allowed to make revelations, sufficient on this head have been already made to man, did not his perverseness distort them from their original perspicuity and perfection.

As there was something in the transactions which passed, when I was offered to this ecclesiastic, that may be new to you; I shall repeat some particulars of them.

You must have heard of the authority of the clergy, in all the countries which profess the religion of the *Roman Pontiff*, and particularly those under the *Spanish* monarchy. Of all the several orders which compose this political *hierarchy*, those who call themselves THE COMPANIONS OF THEIR GOD *, have acquired the greatest power.

Though this title may appear profanely great to you, yet they seem to support it by the share in which they assume, in some of his most sacred prerogatives.

To a reverend father, of this order, was I presented, on the festival called *Easter*. He was seated in a retired chamber of his temple, in the exercise of one of the functions of the Deity, *bearing and punishing, or forgiving sins*, according to his sovereign pleasure. It is not possible to give you *here* an idea of the solemnity of this ceremony, in a country where all religion is evaporated into show. Be it sufficient to say, that the pageantry was such a mockery of the Deity, as no other of his creatures, but *man*, would dare to commit. —The man who brought me into this mysterious scene, advanced with fear and trembling to the *apparent Deity*

* The Jesuits call themselves *Socii Jesu*, the companions of Jesus.

of the place, and, kneeling before him, confessed himself guilty of several *heinous crimes*, in the *admission* of *in-voluntary thoughts*, and *indulgence* of the *appetites* of *nature*, contrary to the rules laid down for him by his spiritual guide.——But this will be best explained by instances. The first crime that the penitent revealed, was having tasted a morsel of *flesh* on a day when it was prohibited. The father, with a severe frown, told him, “That was a great sin which he must atone for, working two days for the church, without hire, and abstaining from flesh, at the same time, tho’ it was generally allowed.”

He next confessed, that he had beaten a dog belonging to a priest, which had broke into his hut, and eaten the pottage prepared for him, by which means he had been obliged to go to sleep without his supper. At this, the priest knitting his brow into ten-fold austerity, exclaimed, “This is rebellion! rebellion against your God! Do you not know, that the dog of an ecclesiastic is above the greatest (even white) layman, much more a wicked native! you must make amends!—you must!—or”—The tone and gesture with which he spoke these words, so terrified the trembling wretch, that he instantly put his hand into his bosom, and, pulling *me* out, presented me, to make his peace. As soon as I appeared, the priest’s features softened, the tone of his voice fell, and receiving me, with a gracious smile, “You have not said, (says he) that the master of the dog was a Jesuit! thy crime, therefore, though great, may be forgiven! but beware for the future, and remember, that the world, and all in it, belongs to us; and that to be guilty of the least disobedience, even in thought, is treason, and deserves the severest punishment. Proceed! unburthen your conscience! I know your thoughts, but would have you speak

“ them, that I may prove your sincerity. Proceed!

“ I am in haste!”

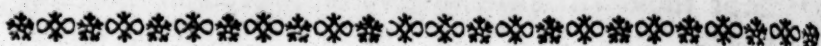
The penitent then went on—“ O father be merciful
 “ and I will confess all! Returning from my labour
 “ one evening late, I found my door fastened, and,
 “ no one answering when I called, I burst it in, when
 “ behold, I saw father *Ignatius* in the very act of car-
 “ nality with my beloved wife *Moutaw*! I was amazed!
 “ and though fear prevented my striking him, I
 “ could not forbear thinking in my heart, that he
 “ who does those things, can be no *god*, he must be
 “ only *man*; and I curst him in the bitterness of my
 “ soul; but he was drunk with wine, and did not
 “ hear me.”

“ Wretch! devil! heretic! (exclaimed the father
 “ in a rage) thou intrude upon the privacy of a
 “ *Jesuit*! thou say, he was but a *man*! thou think,
 “ he could not know thy very thoughts, because he
 “ had drank wine! audacious slave! Art not thou,
 “ and thy wife his? had he not a right to use his
 “ own? was it not an honour to thee, ungrateful
 “ wretch? and darest thou to *think a Jesuit is but a*
 “ *man*! But it is enough! the inquisition shall teach
 “ thee faith and obedience! the inquisition—”

At that tremendous word, the wretch, half dead
 with fear, fell at his feet, crying out, “ O father,
 “ O God, O king, forgive, forgive! and (pulling
 “ out of his bosom the rest of his gold) take this,
 “ O lord, from your poor slave, and forgive—Take
 “ this, which I got at the peril of my life, and saved
 “ to buy the liberty of my dear child, whom my
 “ master took from me; take it and forgive; let her
 “ still be a slave; let me never see her more! But O
 “ the inquisition! O forgive, forgive!”

The priest mollified at the sight of the gold, replied
 “ thou knowest my compassion, but thou abusest it
 “ and thy crimes are almost too great for mercy. In

“ hope thou wilt amend, and transgress so no more,
“ I will forgive thee now : but thou must be punish-
“ ed : Hast thou no more gold ?”—“ O, father, no
“ more, no more ! and this I saved to redeem my
“ dear child : O let me get my child !”—*What ! in-*
“ *solent ! dost thou presume to capitulate ? Thou shalt be*
“ *punished : Instead of getting back thy daughter, thou shalt*
“ *bring me thy son, whom I saw yesterday, when I bade*
“ *thee come to confession. The boy I blessed and kissed upon*
“ *my knee.*”—“ O father, father, take all the gold,
“ and let my daughter remain : But spare my son ;
“ he is too young, O father too young for thee”—
“ “ *The inquisition !*”—“ O take him, father, take
“ him, take all, but spare me ; I fly to bring my
“ child to thee ; O spare me from the inquisition !”
“ —“ ‘Tis well, be comforted ; thy sins shall be forgiven ;
“ perhaps, if thou behavest well, thy son may also be restor-
“ ed. I fear thou hast forgotten thy Christian faith ; let
“ me hear thee repeat thy creed.”—The man somewhat
re-assured, to hear that he should escape the inquisi-
tion, and comforted with the hope of having his son
restored, began thus.—“ I believe that God made
“ the world, and all things in it, for my lords THE
“ JESUITS ; and that I must worship him by obeying
“ them, and saying the prayers they direct me, to
“ the saints, and the blessed Virgin, the mother of
“ God, and above all, to the great saint IGNATIUS
“ LOYOLA. But if I disobey their commands in any
“ thing, or repine at their service, or think that I
“ must obey the viceroy before them, I shall be burn-
“ ed to death in the inquisition here, and the great
“ devil will burn me for ever, after I am dead.”—
“ Well, son, remember and practise thy creed, and thy sins
“ shall be forgiven thee : Go and bring the boy when it is
“ dark.”



C H A P. VIII.

The holy father's tenderness to another penitent, who had ravished, murdered, and robbed his own brother's wife. He accepts the spoils as a recompence to the church. He hints a method of preventing the danger of his brother's resentment, and dismisses him with ghostly advice.

THE severity with which the Jesuit required satisfaction for the imaginary faults of the poor *Peruvian*, may perhaps lead you to think, that his zeal would be inexorable to real crimes; but the following account will shew you, that it was no such thing, and that he looked upon nothing as a crime, which was not detrimental to the power or temporal interest of his society—The next penitent who approached the *mercy-seat*, was a commander in the army. He advanced with a military intrepidity, and kneeling down in form, “Father,” (said he) “I have a long reckoning to make, and some of the articles are rather heavy.” “My son” (replied the priest) “you have had experience of the indulgence of the church, and that no crimes are too black for her mercy, on *proper* penitence. Proceed then and open your wounds to your physician; nor fear the efficacy of his medicines.”

“You know then, father” (said the penitent) “that I have long burned with a passion for the wife of my brother the judge. It was the subject of my last confession.”—“I remember it right well” (said the father) “and you may remember also what ghostly, yet comfortable advice I gave you, to strive against and suppress it, if you could.—“True, father; but I told you then, that I knew it would be in vain for me to strive, as I was resolved to enjoy her, though

“at the hazard of my life.”—“But, son, did I not comfort you, by saying, that if you found it in vain to strive, and could not live without her, as life was the greatest good in this world, it was just that you should preserve yours, by obtaining what you were so violently set upon, but always to be careful that you conducted matters so, as not not to give offence by your success.”—“Ah! but father, that was not in my power: She was deaf to all my intreaties: and that threw me into such despair, that, not able to wait any longer, I have this very morning, had recourse to force;”—“That was really bad, if it could have been avoided; but, as you would not have forced her, if she would have complied willingly, that alters the case very much in your favour, and perhaps she put you to that trouble, only to save the appearance of her own virtue, and if so, you have both acted right, and there is no harm done, provided the affair is not disclosed.”

“O, father, that is the thing; I was afraid of that; and as her husband had always been a father to me, and all my future hopes depended on him, I so greatly dreaded her telling him, that to prevent it, as soon as I had enjoyed her I cut her throat.”

“Murder! O fie; it is an heinous crime: blood calls for blood: your case is terrible.”—“I feared so, father; but I depended on your tenderness; as I did not think it reasonable, that I should have all the pleasure of the crime, and you only the trouble of forgiving, I stripped her of these jewels, which give me leave to offer you.”

“You are a prudent man, my son; I thought you would act with discretion. I accept the jewels as a peace-offering to the *holy church*, for your sins; and as the value of them (indeed they are costly gems) proves the sincerity of your repentance, I shall not hesitate to pronounce your sins forgiven.

“ * For though adultery is a great sin, and, in this
 “ case, aggravated by rape and incest, yet as you
 “ say, it was not because she was the wife of another
 “ man, and especially your brother, that you desired
 “ her, but merely as she was a beautiful woman,
 “ therefore the adultery and incest came in but by
 “ accident; and then, as you ravished her only be-
 “ cause she would not comply, the sin of the rape is
 “ certainly hers, as I said before; for, if I force a
 “ man to commit a crime, I am guilty of that crime,
 “ and not he: and again, though murder is a most
 “ heinous sin, yet as you killed her not merely to in-
 “ dulse a murderous intent, but to prevent her dis-
 “ covering your having forced her, and so ruining
 “ you, the intention quite alters the nature of the
 “ fact, and makes it but self-preservation, which is
 “ the first law of nature. And lastly, as you took the
 “ jewels, not with a design to rob her, but to offer
 “ them to the church, and accordingly have brought
 “ them, that conclusion sanctifies the whole action,
 “ and makes your peace with Heaven.

“ For know, my son, that crimes which respect
 “ man only, as in your case, rape, adultery, incest,
 “ murder, and robbery, though bad in themselves,
 “ 'tis true, yet are a pleasure to the church to for-
 “ give, to a faithful and penitent son, *who believes all*
 “ *her doctrines, and pays due obedience to her clergy, the*
 “ *vicegerents of God on earth, the receivers of her revenues,*
 “ *and dispensers of her favours and vengeance; to whom*
 “ *all earthly power is subservient, who are the kings of*
 “ *kings, and lords of the world.*”—“ This, my son, is
 “ the doctrine of our holy church, as delivered by
 “ the most learned fathers of our order, in the be-
 “ lief of which you will be safe from all the powers
 “ of hell: do what you will, while you pay faith and

* See the casuistical Divinity of the Jesuits throughout.

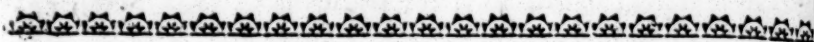
"obedience to the church, she will pardon all your
"sins."——

When he had concluded his instructions, with this pious exhortation, and sealed his absolution with a blessing, the purified saint arose, and said, "Holy father, thou hast set my soul at ease, with regard to *hereafter*, but still I fear for this world. "It unfortunately happened, that I was seen in the fact by a servant who escaped me, or I should have charmed her silence too; and now I apprehend she will inform my brother."——"This is unlucky, most unlucky (replied the priest) I know not what to advise; I am utterly at a loss: If you should prevent her malice, and accuse her of the fact."——"Oh, but father, the rape; there may be appearances of that, which would disprove my charge against a woman."——"Mistake me not, my son, I did not advise any such thing! Heaven forbid that I should advise to bear false witness against an innocent life; I am utterly at a loss."——"Suppose, father, I should strive to prevent my fears, by taking off my brother, as I cannot find her: this is the only way to make me easy; ha, father; is not that an happy thought? I wish it had occurred sooner, and then I should have given you but the one trouble."——"Why, truly, son, the dead neither make nor receive discoveries; and self-preservation will certainly justify any thing as I have said before: but I must not advise you your own genius is ready, and can improve an hint; I must know nothing, till the affair is done; all I can say, is, that work unfinished had better never have been begun.

"Adieu, my son, my blessing waits on all your undertakings. But be sure to hold the indulgent mercy of the church in grateful remembrance."

The officer went away, happy in having lightened the burden that was upon his conscience, and big with

the pious project of making the murder of his brother the first fruits of his regeneration. He was the last penitent of that morning, and, as soon as he was gone, his ghostly director retired to mortify his appetites in the refectory of the convent.



CHAP. IX.

The father's rage, on hearing that his penitent had secreted some of the jewels. The officer is pursued by his brother to the convent, whether he flies for sanctuary. His reception from the father, and the terms of their reconciliation. The father sends away the judge in a fright. The officer is received into the society.

THE great value of the jewels, which the officer had presented to my master, took up so much of his thoughts, that as soon as he had finished his collation he retired to his cell, to meditate on the farther advantages he might make of this affair.

While he was in this pleasing employment, another ecclesiastic entered, to acquaint him with the murder and robbery of the judge's wife, and among other particulars of the story, said, that her crucifix, thought to be the richest in *lay possession* in all Peru, had been taken from her.—“That crucifix!” (exclaimed my master starting, for he knew it well, and had long paid his devotions to it, and now to be *cheated* thus of it when he thought it so *justly* his due, provoked him almost to madness) “That crucifix taken too! “Damned! murderous! deceitful villain! villain on all sides! but I will be revenged!”

The other priest understood not what he meant, and was just going to inquire, when in rushed the captain all aghast. “O father! father! (said he, as soon as he could speak) sanctuary! sanctuary! my

“ brother is at the gate, with all the officers of justice !” — At this the father grinned an insulting smile, and beckoning to the other priest to withdraw. “ Wretch, said he, thou sacrilegious wretch ! how couldst thou dare to enter these holy walls, violated by thy guilt ? Didst thou not fear the fate of *Ananias* and *Sapphira* ? — As thou didst deceive me, with thy feigned penitence, and hast lied to the Lord, in concealing what thou hast most justly devoted to him, I revoke the absolution I gave thee, and will deliver thee to justice, to receive the punishment due to thy crimes. These holy walls afford no sanctuary to sacrilege !

The poor criminal stood confounded at the reproaches which he dared not interrupt, though he could not comprehend the cause or meaning of them. At length, when the priest had exclaimed himself out of breath, the trembling wretch replied, “ O father ! what can have kindled thy wrath against me ? I have committed no crime, since thy absolution purged my soul ! I was only going towards my brother’s house, when I met him, and the servant with him, with all the officers of justice, in search of me, on which I fled directly to you for sanctuary.” — “ I grant no sanctuary to sacrilege ” — “ What sacrilege, O father ? ” — “ The crucifix, deceitful wretch ! Where is thy sister’s crucifix ? Hast thou not defrauded the church of her due ? Didst thou not say, that thou tookest thy sister’s jewels, only to make a peace-offering for thy sins, and then to secrete, thus, the most valuable part of them ! *This is defrauding the labourer of his hire !* This is defrauding the church of her rights, without making the proper compensation ! And what can be greater sacrilege ? ”

Just at these words, a knocking at the gate awoke the penitent from his amaze, and made him apprehend

that he had not a minute to lose; he therefore, with the readiest presence of mind, replied,—“The crucifix, father! you astonish me! did not I give it you?”—And then putting his hand into his bosom, and pulling it out with a look of surprise, he reached it to him.—Forgive, O father (said he) the crime of inadvertency; I meant not to have kept it from you, but only overlooked it, in my confusion! accept it! accept all I am master of, and save my life.”

“Son (replied the father, softening his voice, and taking the crucifix) I am glad thou wast not intentionally guilty of so unpardonable an offence! I believe and accept thy excuse. Be comforted, therefore, my son, thy sins are forgiven.” O but, father, the officers of justice.”——“What officers, what justices dare attempt to shew her face within these walls? Thou art my penitent, I have absolved thee, and will defend thee. Sit down, and compose thy spirits, while I repel this bold intrusion on the peace and privilege of these holy walls.”

Saying thus, the father went to the gate of the convent, where stood the judge, displaying the guilt of the fugitive to the holy fathers, to engage them to refuse him sanctuary, and give him up to justice. But my master soon stopped him. “Cease (said he, with a low voice, and downcast, meditative look) disturb not the peace of these holy walls. The man you seek is *my penitent*. He has made satisfaction to the church, and reconciled himself to Heaven. I come this moment from giving him the seal of absolution. Disturb not the raptures of his soul, that is now joining with the angelic choirs, in the hymns of joy raised in heaven for his repentance. Depart in peace.”

“How, father, (exclaimed the judge) can a wretch, guilty of such crimes, so soon have made his peace? he has deceived you, father; he has not told you

half his guilt : rape, incest, adultery, and murder !
Can *they* be thus forgiven ? So easy pardons but
encourage vice.”——“ And who art thou, pre-
sumptuous man ! (replied the father, raising his
voice, and putting on an air of authority) and who
art thou, that darest thus to call the power of
God’s holy church in question ? What faith, or
rather what *heresy* has taught thee this presump-
tion ? Dost thou measure the divine authority of
our unerring tribunal by the weak rules of thy
blind law ? Are not the keys of Heaven ours ; and
have we not the power to loose as well as to bind ?
But I shall not argue more with thee *here* ; there is
a tribunal proper for such *opinions* as thine ; there
try if thy knowledge of thy laws will justify thy he-
resies ; there thou art not a judge.”

The first mention of heresy had struck such a terror
into the heart of the poor judge, that he was for
some moments unable to reply. At last, recollecting
himself a little, “ I submit, O father, (said he) I am
no heretic ; I have no *opinions* but what I learn
from the holy church, whose power I acknowledge
in all its divine plenitude.”——“ ’Tis well (replied,
the priest) ’tis well ; depart in peace, and to-mor-
row I will visit thee, and examine the state of thy
conscience.”

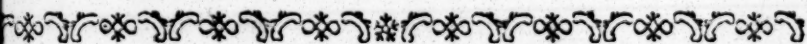
The judge then making a profound reverence, with-
drew without a murmur, and the triumphant father
returned to his penitent. “ My son (said he) thine
enemies are defeated. Thy rest is secure *here*. But
such is their power, and so strong the general ab-
horrence that pursues thy *late* guilt, that it will
not be safe for thee ever to leave this sanctuary.”——
“ O father, must I be confined for ever here ? ”——
“ I said not so, my son : there is a way for thee to
go in triumph out, above the power of thy present
persecutors.”——“ O name it, father.”——“ Take

“our vows. Heaven has blessed thee with a fertile
“genius, and steeled thy soul with fortitude. These
“talents must not be buried, an account will be re-
“quired of them; and where can they be put to
“proper use, except in the service of the donor, in
“his church? there they will raise thee to that rank
“and power, which thou seest us enjoy. I see thou
“yieldest. Resist not the motions of the holy spirit:
“I receive thee into the fold. I salute thee, brother.
“From this moment of thine election, mayest thou
“date thy entrance into the highest honours of this
“world. The day approaches, when thy military
“knowledge and valour may also be called into prac-
“tice. Great events are ripening in the womb of
“time!” I yield, O father, (replied the penitent) I re-
“ceive thine offer with due submission and respect;
“and from this moment delicate my valour, skill, and
“every power of my soul and body to the implicit
“service of thine holy order.”—“It is the hand of
“heaven that leads thee, no longer son, but brother.
“I will go and acquaint our brethren with thy *miraculous*
“conversion and election. Thou hast no more
“to do but to make thy will, and bequeath all thy
“wealth to our order.”—“*Bequeath*, my father,
“must I die?”—“But to the world, brother, to live
“with us.”—But I have nothing to bequeath.”—
“Leave that to us. Do you only give all your for-
“tune, into the hands of your brother, to our society,
“in consequence of your admission; and let us find
“that fortune. I go. The bell rings for *vespers*. I
“shall send our notary to you: and when that is done,
“we will restore our exhausted spirits with a slight re-
“past in the refectory, where I will introduce thee to
“our brethren.”

In a word, all things were executed, and the new brother admitted in proper time into the order, of which he has since risen to be one of the brightest or-

naments. And the judge, to avoid the imputation of heresy, which his *implied* doubt of the church's sanctuary had given my master the hint of, was glad to pay half his wealth to the society, as the fortune of his pious brother.

Soon after this affair was thus happily compleated my master, that he might openly shew his adoration of me to the world, had me made into a crucifix, in which shape I was fastened to his *rosary*, and there publicly received that adoration from the knee, which before was paid me only in the heart.—A repetition of all the occurrences I saw in the service of this master would be unnecessary, as the two I have related give a general idea of them.



CHAP X.

CHRYSAL changes his service, and embarks for Europe in an English man of war. The cause and manner of his coming that way. The occurrences of his passage. On his arrival in England, he is sent by his master to settle some mistakes in the voyage.

WAS heartily sick of such a scene, when the time came for sending me into these parts of the world, where scarcity enhances my value, and makes my power more extensive. Their being a war between Spain and England at that time, about a liberty of setting sticks upon a desert shore, it was necessary to procure a safe passage for the treasure, by establishing right understanding with the commander of an English man of war, which was cruising in those seas. It fell to my lot to go on this errand in the shape of a dragoon, into which I was cast to save the profana-

Mahogany Trade of Honduras.

tion which a crucifix must suffer in the hands of heretics.

There was some little address requisite to conduct this affair with the captain, in such a manner as to keep it a secret from his officers, to gain all of whom would have been too expensive; besides that he would never trust his *sacred* honour to the fidelity of so many. But this was readily adjusted, The refinements of modern politeness having softened the natural ferocity of a state of war, and admitting an intercourse of courtesy between parties who profess to seek each other's destruction, the *Spanish* governor sent out a boat, with his compliments to the *English* captain, with a large supply of fresh provisions, fruits, wine &c.

This necessarily produced a return of civility from the well-bred captain; and in this intercourse were the terms of his connivance settled, as the seal of which was delivered to him, among a very large number of my fellows, who honourably punctual to his promise at the appointed time, sailed away from that station in quest of some ships of the enemy's which he expected to meet elsewhere, and did not return till the *Spanish* treasure was beyond his reach.

As this was a compliment of great consequence to the *Spaniards*, the captain had been so handsomely considered for it, that his desires were satisfied, and he only wished to be safe at home, to enjoy the wealth he had so happily acquired. Often would he take me out (for the beauty of my new impression had struck his eye, and gained me the honour of being kept in his purse) often, I say, would he take me out of his purse and, gazing on me till his eyes watered, "O thou emblem of all my toils and dangers! (would he say) the crown of all my hopes! now I have obtained thee" "I am content! Let others seek that phantom glory" "I have in thee the more solid reward, for which

"always fought, nor shall any thing tempt me to hazard being separated from thee." A resolution which he had the opportunity of shewing in all its strength a few days after, when a ship appeared, which he thought to be a *Spanish* man of war.

As ours was a ship of force, and all the officers (except the captain) were very poor: and as the *Spanish* ships are always richly laden with treasure in those seas, the crew was in the highest spirits at this sight, and made every thing ready to attack her, with the most eager alacrity. But the case was quite different with the captain. He was now as *rich* as he desired, and dreaded the loss of that wealth which he had so long laboured for. He, therefore, retired into his cabin, while the lieutenants were *clearing ship*, and taking me out of his purse, with a look of tenderness that brought the tears into his eyes, "And shall I hazard the loss of thee (he cried) the object, the reward of a life of toil and danger? Shall I sacrifice the only good of life to that chimera, honour? to that bubble lighter than air, and more variable than the wind, the interest of my country? What is honour without wealth? What is a country to him that has nothing in it? Let the poor fight for money, I have enough! let the ambitious fight for glory, I despise the empty name. Let those who have a property in their country fight for it, I have none, nor can have, nor any of its blessings, without thee; and therefore will not venture thy loss for any such vain considerations."

As soon as he had formed this prudent resolution, he clasped me to his heart, kissed me, and returned me into his purse, just as the lieutenant came in, to tell him, they could now *make* the ship which must be vastly rich, she was so deep in the water. My master made no reply, but, taking a telescope in his hand, he went upon the quarter-deck, and viewing her for

some time, with great apparrent earnestness, " You
 " are all mistaken (said he) in that ship! rich indeed!
 " and so she may remain for us. That ship is a first-
 " rate man of war by her size: And as for her depth in
 " the water, she is only brought down by her guns,
 " which are fifty-two pounders at least. *Put about* the
 " ship, and make all sail possible from her. I am
 " answerable for his majesty's ship committed to my
 " care, and will not sacrifice her against such odds.
 " Her weight of the metal would blow us out of the
 " water. Beside, I have a packet on board, and must
 " not go out of my way: *about ship*, and way directly,
 " I say."

The officers stood aghast at this speech, that disappointed all their golden hopes. They urged, they beseeched, they remonstrated, that it was impossible she could be what he said: they insisted that the colour of her sails, and the heaviness of her going, proved her to be a ship of trade that had been long at sea: and as for her bulk, it only encouraged them to hope she would prove the better prize, as all the ships that carry the treasure are very large; that they had observed they *wronged* her so much, they could go round her if they pleased; and begged only that they might be permitted to take a nearer view of her, which they were confident would prove her to be what they said. They alledged the opportunity of making all their fortunes; the honour, the interest of their country. They begged, swore, stormed, and wept; but all in vain. The captain had taken his resolution; and would vouchsafe no other answer than a repetition of what he had said before, " That *he* was accountable for his majesty's ship, and would not hazard her, to gratify them: beside, the delay of the packet he had on board, might be of worse consequence than the taking of such a ship, (should she even be what they said, though he was certain to

the contrary,) would make amends for. And that, as to going nearer to her, the length of her guns would enable them to drive every shot through and through his ship, at a distance that his could never reach her from; though, if they should be mad enough to engage her, his *small-shot* could never pierce such mountains of timber as her sides were barricadoed with." And so, as his power was absolute, they were obliged to submit, and *off he steered*.

It is impossible to describe the distraction which this affair threw our ship into. The officers acted all the inconsistent outrages of madness. The men chewed the *quid*, damned their eyes and limbs for their bad luck, and went to work as usual; while several poor sick wretches, whose spirits had been so raised by the hopes of such a prize, that they had forgot their complaints, and exerted all their strength, to assist in the engagement, now sunk under the weight of the disappointment, and crawled back, many of them to die in their hammocks.

But the captain had carried his point, and regarded nothing else: though indeed he was somewhat disconcerted a few days after, when he learned from another ship, that she really was a *register* ship of immense value, and so weakened by hard weather and sickness, that she could not have attempted any resistance, but had prepared to *strike* the moment she saw us. This information added such fuel to the rage that inflamed the officers before, that all intercourse between them and their captain was entirely broke of, so that *I* became his sole companion.

This lasted all the while we were at a distance from *England*; but, as we drew near home, the captain's stiffness began to bend, and he made several advances to a reconciliation and general amnesty, as he could not but feel some apprehensions for his conduct from his superiors. But all was in vain. The thought of

returning in poverty, instead of that wealth which he had disappointed them of, kept up their resentments, and they determined to complain, if only for the satisfaction of revenge.

This convinced my master, that methods must be taken to obviate their attempts, or he might run a greater hazard at home than he intended to avoid abroad. He therefore prudently concluded, that the same argument which had been so powerful with himself, would be the most effectual to vindicate what he had done with others, and that it would be better to share the spoil, than risk the loss of all.

For this intent, as soon as he arrived in England, he took *me* from his purse once more, and looking earnestly at me for some moments, “We must part (said he, with a sigh) we must part! but I hope to good purpose. Thou only wast the cause of that conduct which now gives me fear; exert therefore thy influence equally, where I now send thee, and thou wilt excuse my fault, if it is one.” Tears, at the thought of losing me here, choked his utterance. He gave me a last kiss, and sent me directly away, in company with a considerable number more to mediate his peace.

C H A P. XI.

The good consequences of a right understanding between certain persons. CHRYSAL's reflections on his first seeing the public offices in London. His master visits a gentleman, who, in the vehemence of his rage against certain abuses, hit himself a violent slap on the face. The necessity of decency, and the methods of supporting it, instanced, in the history of a pretty fellow.

AS the delicate nature of this transaction required some address, he entrusted the management of it to his purser, who had convinced him by many instances, of his sagacity in the methods of obtaining an influence over the great.

As soon as my new master arrived in *London*, his first care was to execute the commission for which *we* had been given to him; but the person, to whom his application was to be made, happening to be out of town for a few days, that he might not lose any time, he proceeded to settle some affairs of his own; in the course of which I had an opportunity of seeing into some part of the secrets of his mysterious business.

The professed motive for his coming to town, was to settle his own, and pass his captain's accounts, between which there was a connection not necessary to be known to any other: for though my late master did not think it consistent with his dignity to be too familiar with his officers, and generally slighted their opinion, if only to shew his own superiority and keep them at a proper distance, with him and his purser the case was quite otherwise, the best understanding always subsisting between them, and every affair being concerted with the greatest harmony, to their mutual advantage: an agreement, which, besides the comfort

and convenience of it to themselves, had this happy influence over the rest of the ship's company, that it kept them, if not easy, at least quiet, from all murmurings, and complaints of bad provisions, short weights, and such like *imaginary* grievances, which the restless temper of seamen is too apt to make the cause of much trouble to the purser, and disturbance to the captain, when these happen not to agree between themselves. But, as the contrary was the case here, their common interest animated the assiduity of my master, and made him go directly to the several offices and contractors, with whom his business lay, to prepare every thing in proper order for public inspection.

On my first going to these public offices, every thing gave me pleasure. There was such an appearance of regularity in all the proceedings, of ease and affluence in the officers, that I could not help saying to myself, "Happy state, whose meanest servants are gentlemen! " whose business is reduced to a system, above danger " of confusion or abuse!" But a nearer view shewed these things in another light. The first person my master went to, was the gentleman who supplied him with those kinds of cloathing for the seamen, which are by these merry poor fellows emphatically called *shops*. As he was just going to dinner, my master accepted of his invitation, and sat down with him. A round or two of loyal toasts to the success of the navy, and continuance of the war, having washed down their fare, and refreshed their spirits after the fatigue of a full meal, they proceeded to business. "I come, " Sir, (said my master) to settle the account of the last " cruise. Here it is: you see most of the articles " have gone of pretty well: but I must tell you, that " you are more obliged to some of your friends for " that, than you are aware of perhaps; for if I had " not prevailed on the captain, to let the alehouse-

“keeper and gin-women come on board, and keep
“the sloop-sellers off, when the men received their pay,
“on going out, you would have had but a black list
“of it. But, by this management, the fellows spent
“all their money in drink, and then necessity drove
“them to me for cloaths.”

“Here is to the captain’s good health (answered the
“other) and that I may soon see him at the head of
“the navy: I am very much obliged to you and
“him, and shall consider your friendship properly.
“But is there no way of preventing those pedlars
“from intruding thus upon us? I am resolved I will
“try: I believe I can make an interest, (you under-
“stand me) that will procure me an order to exclude
“them: at least, if I cannot do that, I will insist on
“raising my terms; for every branch of business is
“now so loaded with presents and perquisites, that
“there is scarce any thing to be got. A man who
“goes to a public office, to receive money, runs
“the gauntlet through so many of them, that if
“he does not make up his accounts in a very master-
“ly manner indeed, he will have but little to shew,
“for his pains, in the end.”—“Very true (replied
“my master) I have had experience of what you say,
“this very morning. You know it is some years
“since I have been in town before: I was therefore
“quite surpris’d at the gay appearance of every clerk
“in the offices. Our midshipmen, on the paying of
“a ship, are nothing to them: So! thought I to
“myself: this is very well! Such fine gentlemen as
“these will never stoop to take the little perquisites
“which their shabby predecessors were so eager for:
“They cannot want them. Accordingly, as soon
“as I had done my business, I was preparing to
“make a handsome speech and a leg, and so walk
“off; but I was soon undeceived; and found, to my
“no small astonishment, that, if the case was altered

“ it was no way for the better for me ; the present fine
“ gentlemen being to the full as rapacious as the
“ former shabby fellows, and with this addition to
“ the evil, that their expectations were raised, in
“ proportion to their appearance, so that they must
“ have a crown, where the others were satisfied with
“ a shilling.

“ And how can it be otherwise (returned the other)
“ while the principals set them such an example of
“ extravagance, and enforce obedience to it in the
“ manner they do : for though their own exorbitant
“ salaries enable them to live with the luxury of al-
“ dermen at home, and make the appearance of
“ courtiers abroad, how can they think, that their
“ hackney underlings shall be able to change their
“ dress with the court, and appear with all the pre-
“ cise foppery of pretty fellows, if they have not
“ clandestine ways of getting money : and that this
“ is the case, I can give you an instance not to be
“ contradicted.

“ Perhaps you may remember a little boy, that
“ ran about the house here, when you were in the
“ town last, his mother was servant to my first wife
“ you cannot forget black-eyed *Nan* : who was the
“ father is nothing to my story, but I took care of
“ the boy. When he grew up, I thought the best
“ thing I could do for him, was to get him into one
“ of the public offices, for he was too soft for his
“ own business, and this I imagined would sharpen
“ him, and 50*l.* a year keep him from being an ex-
“ pence to me. Accordingly, I got him admitted as
“ an additional clerk, in this busy time ; and that
“ his appearance should not shame my recommenda-
“ tion, I added a *London*-made suit to his country wa-
“ drobe, which I thought good enough for him
“ wear every day.

“ Well ; thus equipped, to the office he went,

“ good-looking a lad as ever came from a 12l. academy in *Yorkshire*, which had been the height of his education. But I soon found that I had been out in my reckoning, for going with him to introduce him to the head clerk, whom I had before spoken properly to, in his behalf, I found the whole office in deep mourning, which, as it had been ordered only for the court, and was to hold but for a fortnight longer, I had never thought of dressing him in ; but I soon found that I had not a proper opinion of the consequence of the place.— For the head-clerk gave me a friendly hint, that it was expected, that all the clerks in his majesty’s offices should shew the decent respect of conforming to the dress of the court, on these solemn occasions. —I could not help exclaiming, I believe a little too shortly, What, Sir ! upon a salary of 50*l.* a year ? Sir, (replied he) no body is forced to take that salary ; and they who do not like the rules of the office, are at liberty to leave it : and then turned off upon his heel.” —“ I beg your pardon, Sir, (said I, seeing my error) it was an oversight of mine ; but it shall be amended.” —The sooner the better, Sir, (answered he) for his lordship will be in the office to-morrow, and he must not see any thing so irregular ; and, pray, Sir, (turning to the lad) get that fleece on your head shorn a little (his hair flowed down, in modest ringlets, on his shoulders) and strive to appear something like a gentleman. “ I saw it was in vain to say any thing, and so took the boy away with me ; and had him equipped, next day, in all the fashionable trappings of woe, with his hair shorn indeed, and tied up in a bag, by a *French* barber, for I would not stand for a trifle when my hand was in, and then went with him myself, being desirous to see how he would be received in his new appearance ; but alas !

“ I had forget that indispensable article of a gentleman’s dress, a sword, which I was therefore obliged to send out for directly. In a fortnight’s time, the order for the courts going into second mourning put me to the same expence over again; for the rules of decency were not to be dispensed with; and then, in a month after, it was as necessary to trim his light grey frock with a silver edging of coxcomb, that he might not appear worse than his fellows; all which, with many other as necessary *et cætera*’s by the end of the first quarter, consumed his year’s salary.

“ This enraged me to that degree, that I was going to take him away directly; but the boy had by this time got some insight into the ways of the place, and prevented me, saying, that if I would try, but for another quarter, he was satisfied that his perquisites would more than defray all such expences; and so I find they do; for though he is now a smart well dressed a young fellow as any about town, he has never since troubled me for a shilling: nay, more than all this, he assures me, there are some of his fellow clerks who keep footmen and horses, and have routs and concerts at their houses, as regularly as people of the first rank; and by all the perquisites of a place of fifty pounds a year.

“ Now as all those perquisites are draw-backs upon us as I said before, we cannot carry on the business on the usual terms, if we do not bring up our loss in the quality of the goods, for it would be absurd to expect, that we should lower our living to let such fellows run away with the profit of our industry. In short, my wife’s chariot shall not be put down, nor will I deny myself a bottle of claret to give you or any other friend, to save all the seamen in Britain from perishing with cold: Charity

" begins at home ; I will insist upon having those
" pedlars prevented from interloping upon our trade,
" and so, Sir, my service to you."

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C H A P. XII.

CHRYSAI's master gives his friend some hints, that make him lower his bid. An uncommon piece of generosity returned more politely than could be expected from the parties. An odd story of an unfashionable steward. The success of CHRYSAI's mediation in favour of his late master.

MY master had heard him out, though not with the greatest patience, and now taking the opportunity of his stopping to drink, " All this may
" be true (said he) and what you propose might possibly have been done, and with the effect you desire, some time ago : but matters are altered a good deal, at present, both among the gentlemen of the navy, and here too, as I am told ; and indeed, in respect to this affair, those things are made so infamously bad, and rated so high, that nobody can speak in the defence of them : nay, it even goes almost against my own conscience to utter them ; for only think with yourself what a barefaced imposition it is, to make a poor wretch pay seven shillings for a coarse rotten jacket, when even a Jew shall sell him a sound one, and of finer stuff, for four and sixpence ; and every thing else at the same rate. In short, this point is so overstrained, that it will probably overturn the whole trade, in the end ; for several of the captains are so provoked at it, that they take every method they can, to prevent the same from taking up any thing from

“ us; particularly that which I hinted before, of
 “ keeping off the alehouse-keepers, and such peo-
 “ ple, and encouraging shop-sellers to come on board,
 “ when the men are paying, by which means they
 “ buy good comfortable cloaths, at half the price of
 “ our rotten trash: Indeed one of them went so far
 “ as to buy in a parcel of good shoes, at his own ex-
 “ pence, and make a present of a pair a-piece to all
 “ his *top-men*, when they were going out on a cruize,
 “ as they had spent their money, and could not buy
 “ for themselves, and our shoes were so bad, that the
 “ first time they went aloft with them, after they
 “ were wet, the rattlings tore them all to pieces, so
 “ that it was a common thing to see a man come
 “ down bare-footed, who had gone up with a new
 “ pair of shoes on. Though it is but just to comfort
 “ you, with an account of the return which he made
 “ for his kindness, which was no less than a *round-*
 “ *robin* * to the lords of the admiralty, for his refus-
 “ ing to let them go ashore, and spend their money
 “ in the same manner, the next time they came in.”

“ And such a return may their officiousness always
 “ meet (replied the other) for meddling with matters
 “ which do not concern them: cannot they be con-
 “ tent with their own large gains, without interfer-
 “ ing to hinder others? But I see how it is: the
 “ spirit of patriotism has got into them too, forsooth
 “ and they must be shewing their regard to the pub-
 “ lic! What an evil effect will the bad example of one
 “ man have! There was a time, when they would
 “ not have dared to do this. To say the truth, my
 “ friend, this is not the first alarm we have received

* *The name the seamen call their complaints against their
 captain; it is taken from the manner of their signing them
 which is in a circle, so that there is no knowing who signs
 first.*

“ on this head ; though what to do about it we cannot tell : indeed, I believe we must e’en mend our hands ; which, as half a loaf is better than no bread, hard as it is upon us, is preferable to losing the trade quite ; in the mean time, I am obliged to you and your captain for your friendship, and hope you will accept of *this* return.” They then proceeded to settle their accounts, which as soon as finished, my master took his leave, and went on with his business, which was exactly of the same nature and concluded in the same way, with every person whom he dealt with.

As soon as these transactions were ended, his next care was to pass his captain’s accounts, which he also succeeded in, without any difficulty, though for this he was more indebted to the chance of a lucky minute than he had apprehended. For they were no sooner closed, than an affair happened that gave a turn entirely new, to the whole course of business, in that channel.

When the accounts of the next captain came to be examined, the clerk glancing his eye cursorily over them, in the usual manner, on looking at the amount, “ There must be some mistake here (said he) ”—— “ How so, Sir, (said the captain, who was present) let me look at the account, if you please. No, Sir, there is no mistake, I believe.—Pray where do you mean ?——“ In the casting it up, Sir, (answered the clerk) you see the amount is made to be but 800 *l.* ”——“ Nor should it be more (replied the captain) I summed up the account myself, and these figures are of my own writing.”——How can that possibly be, Sir, (returned the clerk in a surprise) but 800 *l.* for all the repairs, *wear and tear*, of a man of war on such a station, for four years ! I suppose then, Sir, the ship had a thorough repair going out, and wants the like now ! to be

"sure it can be done better, and cheaper here than
 "abroad, and therefore you were in the right to
 "bring her home to get it."—"Not at all, Sir,
 "(added the captain) that was not the case: she had
 "no thorough repair going out, and is come home
 "in better order than she went, as this return of the
 "officers of the yard shews."—"Good God! Sir,
 "*how did you manage?*"—"To the best of my
 "judgment, Sir; I laid out nothing but what I
 "thought necessary, and I charged nothing but
 "what I laid out: I mean not to arraign the conduct
 "of others; I only speak for myself. In these cases,
 "I look upon a man as a steward to the public; and
 "I should think it as great dishonesty to betray, or
 "break that trust, as to wrong a private person."

This speech was heard with astonishment, and returned with a cold compliment, as it came too home to many, to meet general approbation; however, the affair necessarily had an effect not very agreeable to some present; for, the next captain's accounts arising to near four times the sum of the last, such an immediate precedent made the difference so glaring, that it was impossible to avoid putting a stop to them, and so he was mulcted his whole four years pay; though ours, which had been still higher, had gone off smoothly, and without the least remark.

My master having concluded this affair so happily, proceeded next on the great cause of his coming to town, in which, with our assistance, he laboured so successfully, that the captain's *mistake* met only a gentle reprimand.

I here came into the possession of a new master, and immediately after changed my *Spanish* appearance for the fashion of the country, and, in the shape of a *guinea*, entered into the most extensive state of sub-lunary influence, becoming the price of every name, that is respected under heaven.

C H A P. XIII.

CHRYSAL explains some farther properties of his nature. He changes his appearance for the mode of the country; and enters into the service of a noble lord. The sagacity of Mr. Poundage, and his address in business.

I AM now entering upon a stage, where the scenes are so various, and so quickly changed, that it will require your strictest attention to keep pace with my relation. But to make this the easier to you, and to disencumber your surprise from doubts, at my repeating the past lives of persons, in whose possession I have been but a few moments, I must premise to you, that *our* knowledge is very different from that of men. I have told you that we know all things *intuitively*, without the trouble, delay, and errors of *discourse* or reasoning. I must now further inform you, that this intuition extends not only to the present face of things, but also has a retrospect to the whole series of their existence, from its first beginning: the concatenation between cause and effect being so plain to our eyes, that let us but see any one event of the life of a man, and we immediately know every particular that preceded it.

As to *futurity* indeed, it is not yet determined how far forward we can look into that; some allowing us to have the same power of *fore-sight* as we have of *retrospect*; which was the opinion that supported the credit of oracles in former days. But that notion is now exploded, and men argue that our *fore-sight* extends only to *natural* causes and effects: but, in the actions of man, his *free-will* so often breaks that order, that it is impossible for us to know this moment how he will act the next, from any observation of the past; and

they think they prove their argument by this, that if spirits could fore-know all man's actions, it would spare them the trouble of tempting him to any particular ones.—But this by the bye! for as I shall confine my narrative to matters already past, without ever foretelling any thing, it is not necessary for me to determine a question, that opens such a field for the guesses of the learned—But to return to my story.

From the *Mint*, where I put on the shape of a guinea, I was sent to the *Bank*, where the pleasure I had felt at the beauty and convenience of my new figure was considerably cooled, at my being thrown into so large an heap, as took away all my particular consequence, and seemed to threaten a long state of inactivity, before it might come to my turn to be brought into action. But I soon found myself agreeably mistaken, and that the *circulation* there was too quick to admit of such delay: for I was that very day paid out to a noble lord, in his pension from the ministry.

It was about two in the afternoon, when I was brought into his lordship's levee, where the grandeur of his looks, and the magnificence of every thing about him, made me so pleased with my situation, that I thought I could be satisfied to fix my abode with him for some time.

He was just arisen, and seated at the fire, leaning on a writing table covered with green velvet, on which lay some books open, and several letters which he had just broke the seals off, and was beginning to read, while a female servant, beautiful as *Hebe*, poured out his tea at a side-board, and a page like *Ganymede* handed it to him.

In this easy indifference he sat, casting an eye upon a book, or reading a paragraph in a letter, between every sip of his breakfast, when I was laid upon his table by his steward, with these words,—“Two

“hundred, my lord”—“Two hundred, (replied his lordship) the order was for five hundred!”—But, my lord, the butcher, the baker!”—*What are these wretches to me! Is not my whole estate sufficient for them?*” “My lord, there is not a shilling to be got from your tenants, the times are so bad and the taxes so high! and an ounce of provisions could not be had,”—“*Then you might have all fasted! I must have money for this evening; I am engaged in a PARTY, and cannot be off—*” “My lord, your lordship’s taylor desired me to speak to you; he is to appear before his commissioners to-morrow, and begs”—“*What can I do, I would relieve him if I could, but I have not money for myself: I cannot, I will not do without five hundred more this evening, get it where or how you will.*”—“My lord, I was thinking to apply to Mr. Discount, the scrivener, but he said the last time, that he would lend no more on that estate, without the immediate power of cutting the timber.”—“*Well, damn him, let him have it, tho’ it will not be fit to cut these ten years; and, do you hear, get me a thousand to-day.*”—“A thousand, my lord! you said five hundred: I am afraid he will think a thousand too much! *Then he shall never have it; let me do as I will; do not I know, that the timber is worth twice as much this moment, if I could wait to set it to sale? I will not be imposed on by the rascal: I’ll go myself to my neighbour Worthland directly; he is a man of honour, and will be above taking advantage, though I did oppose his election.*”—“As your lordship pleases for that. But then, perhaps, Mr. Discount will call in all his money, if he saw you put yourself into other hands; beside, I am not certain that he will refuse, and therefore I should think it better to try him first; you may do this after. Though I must take the liberty to say, I should be sorry to see your lordship stoop to Sir

“ *John Worthland*, after all the expence you have
 “ been at to give him trouble. For to be sure he
 “ would boast of it in the country, if it was only to
 “ make you look little, and prevent your opposing
 “ him again.” — “ *Why there may be something in that :*
 “ *see what is to be done with DISCOUNT ; but I must*
 “ *have the thousand at any rate, five hundred of which*
 “ *give to poor Buckram, and bring me the other as soon as*
 “ *possible, for I am in haste to go out.*” — “ Then your
 “ lordship had better sign this deed first, to save the
 “ time of coming back again, if he should do it.—
 “ *Aye, let me see it ; there : and make haste.*” — (And
 “ then turning to his page) “ *reach me that paper,*
 “ *this pen is so good it tempts me to write a letter, while I*
 “ *wait for Poundage's return.*” And so humming a
 new tune, went on with his breakfast without the
 least concern.

You are so great a stranger to the ways of that
 part of the world which deals in money-matters, that
 you will be surprised when I tell you, that while this
 Mr. *Poundage* brought me from the Bank, he had
 called upon Mr. *Discount*, and brought him to his
 lord's, to do *his* business.

But you must not imagine this was to lend his
 lordship money. Nothing less. It was only to ap-
 pear as the nominal lender of his lordship's own mo-
 ney, which *Poundage* had that very morning received
 from some of his tenants in the country, and which,
 if he could not bring it in better, he meant to replace
 with part of the price of the timber, which he was to
 buy in *Discount's* name, who was a creature of his
 own.

So remarkable a transaction gave me a curiosity to
 take a view of *Poundage's* life, the main lines of which
 I will just touch over, while you may think him gone
 for the money, and his lordship dressing for his en-
 gagement.

C H A P. XIV.

The history of Mr. Thomas Poundage. His lordship goes to his appointment. An evening's entertainment in high-life. CHRYſAL changes his service: his reflections on the ruling passion of the times.

MR. Thomas Poundage was the offspring of a gypsey, who had left him in the straw he was born on, in an old barn near his lordship's father's, his weakness and deformity making her not think him worth the trouble of carrying away.

The old lord himself happening to be the first who heard his cries, as he was riding by, took compassion on the little helpless wretch, and ordered him to be taken care of at his own expence, and not sent to the parish.

Such an uncommon instance of charity was immediately attributed to a tenderer motive: a suspicion, however injurious to his lordship, so advantageous to the foundling, that it doubled the care and attendance on him, and made him appear of such consequence, that Mr. Thomas Poundage himself, his lordship's steward, condescended to stand god-father for him, and gave him his own name. As Master Tommy grew up, he shewed all the sharpness and cunning of his race, which old Poundage representing to his lord, as a capacity for learning, he was put to the best schools; and being of the same age with his lordship's eldest son, his present master, was settled as an humble companion and attendant upon him; in which station, the pliancy of his temper soon gained him his master's favour, as his secrecy and discretion did his confidence; no service appearing too difficult or

mean for his undertaking, to please his master, especially in the mysteries of intrigue; nor a look ever betraying his success.

These services naturally produced an intimacy, that opened to him all his master's secrets, and gave him such consequence with him, that, upon the death of his father, old *Poundage* was *superannuated upon a pension*, and the place given to him, in which he had behaved himself so judiciously, that in about ten years he had amassed so large a fortune, as to be able to supply his master's wants (with the assistance of his own money some times) without the scandal of exposing them to any other: a service that amply recompensed, to his lordship's honour, whatever prejudice it may be supposed to do to his affairs.

'Tis true, his supplanting his godfather and benefactor, old *Poundage*, had not met with the approbation of such as were not well acquainted with the world, and particularly, as the old gentleman, in his rage, had accounted for all his kindness to him, by owning a relation, which he had before strove to fix upon his lord, by many plain insinuations, though he now said he had long before revealed to his ungrateful son the secret of his birth.

However, if he had communicated this secret, our son of fortune had kept it so well, that he could now deny it with safety; nor had he profited so little by his father's example, as to be moved with a suggestion that evidently appeared, however true it might be in itself, to spring at that time from resentment. And as he could not expect to reap any great advantage from being acknowledged for the spurious son of one who had many legitimate children to inherit his fortune, he thought it better to confirm the former opinion, by his flights of the claim of *Poundage*, and since he must be the bastard of one of them, chuse the lord before his servant.

But to return to my master. He was dressed by that time *Poundage* came back with the money, when taking the five hundred *for his own use*, he went to his appointment.

As to the other five hundred, which he had ordered to be paid to his taylor, for fear of the wretch's applying to the lord himself, in his despair, *Poundage* did send for him, and, *in compassion to his distress*, advanced him 400 l. of his own money, *for he had not a shilling of his lord's in his hands: for which piece of service he desired no other consideration than a receipt for 500 l. though it might be so long before he could get it back, that he expected to be a loser by his friendship, which Mr. Buckram need not, as he could bring it up in his next bill.*—Of this I came to the knowledge sometime after, in the course of my circulation.

It was five o'clock, and dinner just serving up, when my lord joined his company. At dinner, and during the reign of the bottle for a couple of hours after, the conversation turned upon all the polite topics of the times, wherein there could be no long disputes, as every difference in opinion was immediately determined by a *bet*, the supreme decision of peace, war, religion, and law.—But this dissipated *piddling* soon gave way to the serious business of the evening, to which they all adjourned, with an intention and anxiety worthy of the consequence at stake.

It is impossible to give you an idea of this scene, in which every moment produced such sudden transitions from despair to exultation, from shouts of joy to the most blasphemous execrations of their very being, on the vicissitudes in the momentary fortunes of the actors, that the very recollection of it is a pain even to me.

However, it made no such impression upon them: but they continued at it till about six in the *morning*, when they retired for the *night*.

In the course of the *evening*, I often went the circuit of the whole company round, and at length was carried home by a new master. But, before I say any thing of him, I must give you a few slight sketches of the characters of some others of the company, and particularly of my late lord, in whose whole appearance and behaviour there was something so extraordinary.

There is scarce a stronger instance of the tyranny of avarice over the heart of man, than the passion for *play*, which is now so general and prevalent, as to seem in a manner to have drowned every other. The tenderest, the strongest connections of friendship and nature, yield to the force of this resistless infatuation. The persons who esteem each other most in the world this moment, no sooner sitting down to this *decision of fate*, than they labour for each other's ruin, with all the assiduity and eagerness of the most inveterate hatred and revenge.

Nor is this practice confined to those alone whom necessity may seem to stimulate to so desperate, to be the most infatuated with this passion, but extends also to those, who possessing already more than they can enjoy, hazard that, and give themselves up a prey to anxiety, and often to despair, to indulge a fruitless desire for more.

Of this last class were most of the company, among whom my *late* lord had spent this evening: some few indeed there were whom this folly had reduced to the former, and necessitated to live by their experience in the art which had been their ruin.

C H A P. XV.

The company represented in perspective. Set a beggar on horse-back, and he'll ride to the devil. A new way of parrying a dun, and paying debts of honour. A commission-broker flung. A connoisseur deceived by his own judgment and eminent taste for VIRTU.

I SEE your curiosity rise at the mention of so strange a scene as this must be. It is natural, and therefore shall be indulged. But, as all description shall fall short of it, I shall represent it to you in perspective. Do you therefore resolve sense into imagination, a practice not uncommon with the philosophic mind, and to pure abstracted attention shall my words become things, and appear as visible to your eyes, as if they were purged with *euphrasy* and *rue*.

Observe now, at the head of the table, that heavy looking figure whose saturnine complexion gives a solemnity to his appearance, even beyond his declining years. This man wore out the prime of his life in indigence and hardships, till chance, by one successful stroke in his business, gave him such a fortune, as was deemed sufficient merit to deserve nobility, and entitle him to one of the first employments in the state.

Sudden elevation makes a weak head giddy; the plain, good natured, chearful man, is lost in the solemn proud peer; who is harder of access than his sovereign, and seems to value himself on having all the hours he has spent in cringing to the great, repaid tenfold in attendance upon him. As to the business of his office, the whole system of human politics is in general such a jumble of blundering and vil-

laine, that I can seldom bring myself to bestow a moment's notice on it, so can say no more of his, than that the little attention and less capacity he has for it, may most probably give just occasion for all the murmurings that are against him—But this was not the motive of my pointing him to you. It was his infatuation to the love of play, which makes him hazard that wealth which he so long felt the want of, in hopes of acquiring more, though he has already more than he can enjoy.

This has been an unsuccessful night with him. Observe how stupified he looks at his loss! extend the view but a few moments farther, and see how he sits down in the common hall of the tavern, among servants and chairmen, insensible of the impropriety of such a place, and unable to order his servants to carry him home; nor is it improbable that the scene he has just quitted may remain so strongly on his imagination to-morrow, that he may write down the rules of the game he has been playing at, instead of the orders of his office, as he has done once before.

Next to him, you see a short, ruddy chearful looking man. That is one of the deplorable instances of the evil of this preposterous passion. With every advantage of rank, abilities, and fortune, did that person set out in life. But alas! soon was the prospect of his future happiness and grandeur overcast! soon did gaming reduce him not only to a necessity of prostituting his abilities to the prejudice of his country, but also of descending to every iniquitous mystery of the art, to support his practice of it: for so bewitched is he to it, that he cannot desist, though he now can scarce get any person to play with him, his want of money and his skill in the whole art are so well known.

This has been a successful evening with him, as you may see by his extraordinary flow of spirits: no

that his natural vivacity ever fails him in the worst reverse of fortune. He has won a considerable part of the great losings of the person we have just been taking notice of; and though he has many demands upon him for every shilling of it, yet far from thinking of paying one of them, he is this moment planning new scenes of pleasure to consume it all, chusing to let his creditors all be bankrupts, or even to compound with them as a bankrupt himself, rather than deny his appetites their full gratification.

It is impossible to convey a just notion of such a complicated character, by any description; I shall therefore just mention one or two of his actions, from which you may, in some measure, form a judgment of the whole.

Having a pressing occasion, some time ago, for an hundred guineas, he applied to one of those necessary attendants of the Great, who, at the moderate interest of five hundred *per cent.* are always ready to supply them with money to discharge their debts of honour. This friendly gentleman being well acquainted with the character of the borrower, made many scruples to comply with his request, till at length he suffered himself to be prevailed upon conditionally, that, if the principal and premium were not paid in a week, he should receive a guinea as a further gratuity then and every time after, that he should demand his money, till it was paid. Accordingly, at the end of the week, he made his demand, and, as he expected, received his guinea, from which time he took care to call upon him every second or third day till he had received his money more than twice told, thus in single guineas, for forbearance, always timing his applications, when he saw his debtor engaged in company with persons, before whom he would not even enter into an expostulation, for fear of having the affair known; so that as soon as he

saw him approach, without waiting to be asked, he used to pull out his purse, and calling him to him, gave him a guinea, to go and buy something for him; an errand the other sufficiently understood.

The constant repetition 'of this could not always escape observation,' nor was the cause of it unsuspected by most of his acquaintance; some of whom happening to hint it to him one evening, when wine had taken away all reserve, he, who was above being ashamed of any thing, honestly owned the whole transaction, and joined in the general laugh at his own folly: however, as the secret was now out, he resolved to submit to the imposition no longer; and the next time his friend came to wait upon him, instead of hurrying him away, as before, he publicly entered into a discussion of his demand, and, as he could not attempt to deny his having received more than double what he had lent, the debt was adjudged by the company to be sufficiently discharged, and he was literally sent off, without his errand.

This story shews only the levity and inconsiderateness of his temper, and the distresses in which they entangle him: but the following is of a blacker hue, and will prove, that he is capable of doing any thing to extricate himself from those distresses, and provide for the gratification of his passions.

Not very long ago, a young gentleman, who had a military turn, collected the whole of his small fortune to purchase himself a commission in the army. Having lodged his money in the hands of his *agent*, who, for the convenience of making use of it, and to enhance the price of his own trouble, was in no haste to dispatch the affair, he made an excursion to the country town, in which this gentleman's seat was, and where he happened to be at that time.

As the hospitality of his temper made his house open to every stranger, who had the appearance of a

gentleman, the young soldier soon became acquainted with him, and in return for the friendship for which he mistook the general affability of his conversation, and to display his own importance, told him his present situation, and the method he had taken to procure success to his hopes of a truncheon. His friend expressed the strongest approbation of his spirit, and encouraged his hopes, but told him that he had chosen the worst way of entering into the army, as the sum of money, which he had given the agent to purchase him only a pair of colours, applied properly to some of the persons in office, and back'd by good interest, would not only procure him a cornetcy of horse, at present, which was of three times that value, but would also establish such an interest for him, as should greatly accelerate his rise to still higher promotions. Struck with such a promising prospect as this speech opened to him, the young gentleman answered, that he was sensible of the truth of what the other said, but that it was his unhappiness to have had no friend to direct him how to apply his money properly, much less to back him afterwards. "That's very hard (replied his friend) I wish I had known you sooner."—This hint was enough: the young gentleman, fired with such flattering hopes, flew directly to town, and, finding that his agent had not yet concluded the purchase for him, took his money out of his hands, and returning to the country, in the confidence of his heart, went and presented it to his friend, throwing himself entirely upon his patronage and protection.

It is probable, that, when this gentleman began the discourse, which gave occasion to this action, he meant no more by it, than to display his own judgment and interest, without any farther design: but the sight of five hundred pounds was a temptation he could not resist. He therefore, with seeming sur-

prise and reluctance, received the money, and took the young gentleman into his care.

For some time he fed him with hopes of immediate success; but, his impatience beginning to grow troublesome, upon his return to town, for the winter, he gave him to understand, "that he was offended at his importunity:—that since he had undertaken to serve him, he would do it as soon as he could;—but that he need not give himself the trouble of calling upon him any more, as he would receive sufficient notice of his success in the public papers."—Saying which words, he left him. Thunder-struck at this speech, the young gentleman withdrew, and, meeting one of his acquaintance, informed him of what had happened. This person, who was perfectly acquainted with the gentleman's character, saw immediately into the whole affair, and explained the imposition to him. This made him mad; he returned directly to demand his money, but was denied admittance, nor would his letters even be received by the porter. His case was now desperate; while he had paid attendance upon his patron, he had exhausted his means of subsistence to the last mite, so that he now was in want of a morsel of bread. In this situation, a moment was not to be lost; and, luckily, his despair suggested to him the only means that could possibly have procured him redress. He drew up a state of his case in a few words, and, putting on the best suit of clothes he had left, went the very next day to court, where, in sight of his patron, he bent his knee to his sovereign, and presented it to him. Something particular in his air and manner struck the monarch's notice; he read the petition; and then reached it to this gentleman, in whose altered countenance he soon read the truth of the contents: turning therefore from him, with a look of ineffable reproof and contempt, he ordered the secretary at war to make

out a commission for the young gentleman that very day, and from that hour has never held the other in the least degree of esteem, or favour; but he is insensible to such disgrace, and while he can gratify his passions, in the manner you see at present, cares not what the world thinks or says of him.

Opposite to him, at the other side of the table, observe an uncommonly large boned bulky man: that is one of the instances of the insufficiency and weakness of human laws, which, striving to remedy one evil, often makes way for a greater.—That man is now advanced to the foremost rank of the military list, merely by *seniority*! A grievous abuse of that institution, which to prevent favour from advancing its minions over friendless merit, ordains, that no senior officer shall serve under his junior; but now, by the natural force of human perversion, this well-designed regulation is made a pretext for giving command to such as have no other claim to it, than (what should indeed incapacitate them) old age, and so keeping back the advance, and damping the ardour of youth.

As there is no man without some particular ambition, his has taken a turn which, perhaps, you may think the most remote from his profession of a soldier. Pictures! painting is the sole object of his admiration, the only knowledge he values himself upon. Tell him of a siege, or a battle, an attack, or a retreat, conducted with the greatest skill, and he hears you unmoved, nor will interrupt your account with a single question: but name *Rembrandt* or *Titian*, and he immediately gives you a dissertation on their excellencies, and the difference of their schools! Tell him but of a sale of pictures, on the day fixed for a review, and, if he is forced to feign sickness to excuse his attendance in the field, he will be at it.

Such absurd passions are always the objects of artifice and imposition. An ingenious painter of this

country, not very long since, whose works would have been a credit to the best of foreign schools, but were despised at home, bethought himself of a way to turn this person's foible to some advantage. He made some designs, landscapes and other drawings, in the manner of some of the greatest of the antient *Italian* masters, whose names he marked upon the backs of them, in the characters of their times, and giving them *the cast* of age, made them up in an *Italian* chest, and, by the assistance of a captain of a ship, had them entered at the Custom-house, as directly from *Italy*, and consigned to a stranger, as from a friend there, to be disposed of in *London*.

The report instantly reached this lover of *virtu*, who was so ravished with the thought of gaining such a treasure, that he flew to the place, and, *being convinced by his judgment of the authenticity of them*, bought them all together for a very large sum, but far short of their *real* value, had they been to be disposed of by a person acquainted with it.

Though this success was very pleasing, and useful to the painter, he did not stop here. This person had some way taken a dislike to him, which he indulged, by running down his work. This therefore was an opportunity for revenge not to be missed. He let him boast of his acquisition in all companies, and display his judgment in proving them to be the genuine productions of those great masters, by criticisms which none but a connoisseur could make: but then, as soon as the whole affair was so public, that there was no denying it, what does the incensed artist but produce the counterparts of them all, which he had kept for the occasion, so like as not possibly to be known asunder, and unravelled the whole affair taking care only to keep himself clear of the law, by saying, that he had sold those things as of no value, at a very small price to a *Jew*?

This was a severe stroke ! It overturned the only reputation which he had even an ambition of, and robbed him of a large sum of money beside, to recover which loss, and divert the chagrine of the whole deceit, he has recourse to play, which he follows with the eagerness you see.

But his is not the only absurd passion which strikes the notice of an accurate observer of mankind. The person on his right-hand was born in the first rank of the state, but by some unlucky mistake, the qualifications which fell to his share belonged to one of the lowest classes of mechanics. While others of his rank are marshalling armies, and planning conquests, correcting the abuses or studying to rise upon the ruins of the state, his utmost ambition is to cut out a buck-skin to advantage, and be reckoned the best breeches maker of his time. Harmless as such an humble turn may seem, it involves the noble artist in many whimsical distresses.

His passion for breeches-making is so strong, that he never sits near any person, but his hand is immediately, and unpremeditatedly, applied to his thigh, which he has no sooner stroked down two or three times, than he thinks he conceives the size and shape of it so exactly, that he can completely fit it, without the trouble of taking any other measure ! and accordingly never fails to introduce a dissertation on the art, which he concludes with the demonstrative proof of his skill, of offering to make a present of a pair of his own making. The advantage of such an offer, and the pleasure of encouraging so illustrious a mechanic, make his present always accepted, so that he has generally the most business of any one of the trade, though some accidents have happened, that have almost made him afraid to pursue such an indiscriminate method of soliciting custom.

Happening some time ago, in a very large com-

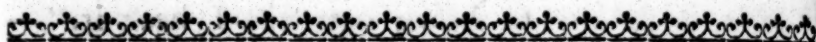
pany, to sit near a young gentleman, whose delicate complexion had brought him, though most unjustly, under a suspicion of indulging unnatural passions, he applied his hand to the gentleman's thigh, and began to feel it all over to take measure of it, according to his custom. The gentleman who was not ignorant of the imputation he lay under, and therefore was more quickly sensible of every thing that might possibly seem to allude to it, thought this application to his thigh was meant either to tempt, or to insult him, for he had been informed that those wretches often make their infamous addresses in this manner, and was enraged at it to such a degree, that, forgetting all respect to the company present, and to the rank of his supposed lover, he felled the poor breeches-maker to the ground, and, starting from his chair, drew his sword, and would have run him through the body, had not his arm been happily seized by the gentleman who sat next him.

It is not easy to describe the astonishment of the company at such an outrage, which they could attribute to nothing but phrenzy; but the gentleman soon undeceived them: "Infamous, unnatural wretch!" (exclaimed he, as soon as the rage permitted his utterance) "I'll make you know, that I am not an object for your brutal passions. I have exposed you here; but your infamy shall not be confined to this company; I'll publish it to all the world. Unhand me gentlemen, and let me wash off the disgrace of such an attempt with the monster's blood! I'll gladly pay my own life as a forfeit to the defect of the law, that has provided no punishment for such odious crimes."—To the greater part of the company this speech was quite unintelligible, and only confirmed the suspicion of his madness: but one of them, who had observed the gentleman change countenance upon the noble man

chanic's applying his hand to his thigh, soon cleared up the mystery. "I believe, Sir, (said he) you you have been too hasty, and mistaken an intention, not only harmless in itself, but generous also, for one of a very different nature! Have you any other reason for accusing his lordship of unnatural designs upon you, besides his laying his hand upon your thigh, and feeling it;"—"No, Sir! but that I think enough! too much for him to offer, or for me to bear; nor will I bear it."—"I do not pretend, Sir, to tell you what you must bear; but this I can tell you, that you have entirely, and most injuriously, mistaken his lordship, who meant no more by that action which gave you such offence, than just to take your measure for a pair of breeches, which, if you had not been so hasty in your resentment, he would have made you a present of."—Death, Sir, do you make a jest of me?"—His lordship, who had heard their discourse, and was by this time so far recovered of his fright as to be able to speak, interposed here, or the affair might probably have taken another turn. "No, indeed, Sir, (said he) he does not jest! I meant nothing more; and all the company present knows, that I never had any passion in my life, but for breeches-making; and, if you apprehended any thing else, you were very much mistaken."

This speech, and the manner in which it was delivered, were not to be resisted. They disarmed the gentleman's rage instantly, and his only concern was how to make up the matter, so as to avoid the ridicule of such a mistake. He therefore told his lordship, that he was very sorry for his error, and hoped that he would attribute the consequences of it to that delicate sensibility, which every man of honour must have under such an apprehension. This was sufficient; his lordship, instead of harbouring resent-

ment, was glad to get so easily rid of the affair; and to convince the gentleman, both of the sincerity of his reconciliation, and that he had no other design, than what he said, in the action that gave him the offence, he undertook to make him a pair of buckskin breeches, only from the measure he had taken, that should fit him better than any he had ever worn in his life.



CH A P. XVI.

The character of a VIRTUOSO. The history of an HORNED COCK; with some curious philosophical remarks on cornuted animals.

OPPPOSITE to him sits one of those philosophers who build their pretensions to scientific fame, on making collections of the anomalous frolics of nature, without ever attempting to investigate the wisdom and power displayed in the regular process of her works. In the course of this study, a whimsical adventure lately happened to the noble *Virtuoso* before us. A man that bought poultry round the country, to supply the markets of this great city, having got intelligence of his lordship's taste, resolved to solve to turn it to his own advantage. He accordingly procured a most beautiful game-cock, and sawing off the spurs of another cock, that had very long ones, contrived to fix them firmly with wax on the head of this bird, on each side of the comb, the points turned backwards, and inclining from each other, like the horns of a goat, in such a manner, that they appeared to have grown naturally there.

As soon as he found that he could bring his scheme to a probability of success, he waited on the *Virtuoso*,

and giving notice, that he had something curious to communicate, was immediately admitted to an audience, in his musæum, where he informed him, that he had received intelligence, from a particular friend of his, a *Scotch* pedlar, that in the farthest part of the Highlands, there was a most remarkable cock, with two surprising horns growing out of the back of his head, in the possession of an old woman, who was famous for the *second fight*; that upon his admiring the creature, the woman had offered to sell it to him, for a pound of tobacco and a bottle of brandy, but he was afraid to meddle with it, as all the country said it was her *familiar*, though he had seen it himself scrape the dunghill and tread the hens, like any other cock; and that, upon hearing the news, he was come to inform his lordship of it, and to offer his service to go all the way himself for the bird, and bring him up, if he would promise to reimburse him the expences of his journey, and give him some little consideration for his trouble; and to convince his lordship, that he had no design to impose upon him, he would go, at his own hazard, and desire nothing if he did not succeed.

The first mention of such a curiosity threw the *Virtuoso* into the highest rapture: he embraced the fellow, conjured him not to lose a minute, nor drop the least syllable of the affair to any person living, till he brought him the cock; and, to secure his fidelity, pulled out his purse, and gave him ten guineas, with a promise of fifty more, the moment he should receive him. The man promised every thing he required, and went away, hugging himself in the success of his scheme. Accordingly, he left that part of the country directly, and, taking care to keep beyond the reach of his lordship's inquiry, followed his business, as usual, for the time that he might be thought to have spent in his expedition. In the mean while, the *Vir-*

tuoso could not conceal the pride of his heart, on the prospect of so great an acquisition; but in all his letters to his philosophical correspondents, gave mysterious hints of something immensely fine, rare, and unnatural, and assumed the importance due to the possession of such a treasure.

At length the moment arrived that was to complete his happiness. About ten o'clock at night the man alighted at his lordship's gate, and sending in his name, was immediately shewn into the museum, where his lordship flew to meet him, in the utmost impatience. As soon as the man entered, all over spattered with dirt, and putting on every appearance of fatigue, "Well, my good friend (said the *Virtuoso*, with the greatest eagerness) what success? Where is the dear creature? Shall I be so happy as to see him in my possession?—My lord (answered the man) I must beg your pardon for a moment, I am not able to speak: I am quite worn out"—and then dropping upon a chair, as if he was ready to faint, his lordship immediately rung for some cordial for him, which he took from the servant himself at the door, (for he would not admit any one living) and gave him, with his own hand. When he was a little recovered, "I beg your lordship's pardon (continued he) but I could not hold a moment longer; what with travelling all day, and watching all night, I am quite worn out."—"But where is the bird?"—"And then such offers as I have refused! Well, to be sure, I trusted to your lordship's generosity, for I shall never have such an other opportunity of making my fortune: for behold the thing had taken wind, and there was my Lord Duke's and Sir Thomas's men, and twenty more riding for life to try who should get him, but I had got the start of them, and was coming back with the pretty creature in my bosom; but I let them all go on their

“ fool’s errand, and did not say any thing to them ;
 “ for how did I know but they might kill me to get
 “ him away from me ? ” — Having finished his speech,
 which the other did not chuse to interrupt, though
 he listened to it with the utmost impatience, the
 fellow opened his horseman’s coat, and with greatest
 caution produced the wonderful creature, the head
 and neck of which had been carefully thrust into a box
 made on purpose for fear the coat should rub off the
 horns.

His lordship’s rapture at the sight is not to be described. He instantly pulled out his purse, and paying down the promised price, took possession of him, and bid the man go and refresh himself for that night, with the best in the house, and in the morning he would consider how he might make him a return more equal to his service, by procuring him some handsome place at court. But the fellow had other designs in his head, than ever to see his face more. However, he kept that to himself, and, retiring with many professions of gratitude, left his house directly, and took his leave of that country for ever.

In the mean time, his lordship had notice, that supper was served up ; but, though he had company of the first rank in his house, he was so wrapt up in the contemplation of his new acquisition, that he sent word he was taken suddenly ill, and could not possibly attend them : he then dispatched several servants express, to his learned friends, to desire their attendance next day, to see the most astonishing and beautiful composition nature had ever made in the animal world, and devoted the rest of the night to drawing up a proper description of this surprising *horned cock*, with a physical inquiry into the substance of his horns, and a philosophical attempt, to account for such an extraordinary production. When this

work of uncommon learning was finished, he indulged himself with taking another view of his darling bird, and then put him in a beautiful cage, from which he dislodged two *Chinese* pheasants, and placed him in his museum next to his favoured *horned* owl.

It was six in the morning before he retired to rest, when his head was so full of his new acquisition, that he lay dreaming of cows with wings, and cocks with horns, and such like wonderful works of nature, till the arrival of his learned friends at noon. As soon as their coming was announced, he arose directly, and without waiting to visit his cock, to whom he had given a sufficiency of provisions before he left him, went to meet them. After several impatient inquiries into the cause of so sudden and peremptory a summons, the *Virtuoso*, in all the mysterious importance, which so inestimable an acquisition gave him, produced his own learned labours of that morning, and, when they had sufficiently studied and examined them, introduced them to a sight of the unparalleled subject: "There, gentlemen (said he, in conscious exultation) there, my friends, behold the most uncommon, unnatural and inestimable curiosity, that ever enriched the collection of a philosopher. There behold an indisputable proof of their error, who assert that nature has placed an immovable boundary between the quadruped and winged creations. There behold a sufficient encouragement, to urge your indefatigable search for monsters, and mix the whole animal creation in coition, for the production of mermaids, griffins, centaurs, harpies, and horned cocks, and all that beautiful confusion which yields such inexpressible delight to the inquisitive, philosophic mind."—

While he was making this harangue, the company approached the gilded cage, that contained this inestimable prodigy, and, stooping down to contem-

plate him, were surprised to find one of his horns fallen off, and the other moved considerably from the situation, in which it had been described to them: for, doleful to relate! the cock, which was of the right game-breed, had unfortunately taken offence at the visage of the owl his neighbour, and in his struggles to come at him, through the bars of the cage, had rubbed off one, and displaced the other of his horns. When this deplorable misfortune was mentioned to the owner, it is impossible to describe his astonishment and confusion. He stooped hastily to be satisfied of the truth of it, and beholding the irreparable ruin of his pride, gave one dismal groan, and fell at length on the floor in a swoon.

While his servants, who were summoned upon the occasion, were fetching him to himself, one of the philosophers opened the cage, and, taking out the bird, they all entered into a discussion of so strange a phenomenon. After many learned and ingenious solutions, one of them declared, that it had always been his opinion, in which the present case abundantly confirmed him, that all cornuted animals cast their horns every year, like the stag, and that the present case was no more than that; of which he was perfectly convinced, as he could plainly feel, with his finger, the growing horn, which had thus thrust off the old one; so that my lord (said he, addressing himself to the owner, by this time was recovered, and attending to their remarks) “instead of being vexed at such an event, you have reason to rejoice, as it explains a very difficult point, and you will now have an opportunity of tracing the growth of this beautiful prodigy.”

This sage solution administered some consolation to the *Virtuoso*, who immediately took the bird in his own hands, and feeling the lump of wax, which had fastened on the fictitious horn, was convinced of

the truth of his friends accurate observation, which he himself farther confirmed, by taking notice, that, as no blood followed the avulsion, it was evident the horn was of itself ready to fall off, without the assistance of the cock's struggling (for they had caught him at that work) as the dislocation of the other horn shewed that that was not in the same state of ripeness, and, therefore, it had resisted that force. Consciousness of the sagacity of this remark in some degree, restored his spirits, and he was going to proceed, when one of the company, who had taken up and examined the fallen horn, and had not given any opinion on the matter, interrupted him drily, and said, the hypothesis was certainly very ingenious, but he believed the affair might be solved a readier way; for upon examination of the supposed horn, he found it was only a cock's spur, which had been fastened on the creature's head with wax, as appeared evidently by the remains of the wax upon the end of the spur in his hand; and, if they would let him pull off the other, he would undertake that the imposture would be too plain to admit of any doubt.

The mention of this threw them all into confusion, as they had all given their opinions positively, of the honour of which it deprived them, and cut short many more, which they were ready to offer: they therefore stood looking at each other, till he stretched out his hand to pull off the other horn, when they all interposed, particularly the owner, and insisted, that they must be better satisfied of what he had advanced before they could permit so rash an experiment. But the bird himself cut short the dispute; for, some of the company happening to have snuff in their fingers, it got into the cock's eyes, and made him shake his head with such violence, that off flew the horn in the owner's face. The person, who had made the discovery, immediately took it up and shewed such

plain proof of the trick, that it could no longer be denied.

It is impossible to describe the shame and vexation, in every philosophic face present, at this lamentable event. The abused purchaser, in particular, was almost mad : however, after mature deliberation, it was agreed upon, for the credit of philosophy, to bear the deceit in silence, rather than expose themselves to the ridicule of the unlearned, by seeking satisfaction from the cheat. As for the cock, he was immediately sacrificed to *Æsculapius*, to avert the consequence with which such a disappointment might have upon the health and understanding of the company, and to remove such an evidence of their disgrace. But all their caution was in vain : The person, who had first detected the deceit, could not deny his vanity the pleasure of making his sagacity known ; and the fellow, finding his trick passed over thus with impunity, could not avoid boasting of it ; and to this day diverts his customers with the history of the horned cock.



C H A P. XVII.

More mortification to human vanity. A reason for submitting to be pillaged by sharpers. What's got over the devil's back, is spent under his belly. Filial piety remarkably rewarded.

I SEE you are shocked at the inconsistency, vice and folly of mankind ; but this is owing to your reclusive life, and want of acquaintance with the world : to an accurate observer, things appear in their proper colours ; and, if the picture should be unpleasing, the fault is in the subject, not in the painter, who honestly represents nature as he finds her. As to those,

of whom I have given you these short sketches, they are wealthy, and wealth is an excuse for all things; the nobility of their birth not yielding a greater sanction to their persons, than their money does to their vices and follies. And where these tend to the dissipation of that wealth, they only enhance their welcome, in every place of polite resort: indeed, the society, in which you see them at present assembled, subsists entirely by these, as by the institution of it, no person can be admitted, who hath not wealth to dissipate; as no person will desire to be admitted, who has not a vicious avarice for the wealth of others, and folly enough to hazard his own for the acquisition of it.

But, though folly is, in the strictness of truth, thus essential to the association, there are many of the members, who, in the general meaning of the word, are entirely above the imputation of it: yet so prevalent is the infatuation of gaming, that they will bear the grossest impertinencies, and mix with the outcasts of humanity, for its gratification, as if the dice, like death, levelled all distinctions.

Observe that person who seems to be absorbed in thought, in the midst of the hurricane around him. Reason takes the advantage of his being for a moment disengaged, and forces him to behold, in a proper light, a scene so contrary to THE OECONOMY OF HUMAN LIFE, as that in which he is involved: but wait till the dice-box comes round to him, and you will see all his philosophy vanish, and this passion for gaming hurry him as destructive lengths as the most thoughtless of them all.

Every ability, every virtue that could adorn and exalt the human mind, conspired to throw the brightest lustre round his youth, and mark him as a blessing to society. Nor did he disappoint the general hope, but filled, with dignity and honour, the high employ-

ments to which his merits raised him, till this pernicious passion insensibly unbent his mind, and turned his thoughts from every nobler pursuit. The falling off was most unhappy: his time, every moment of which is precious to the public, is wasted in idle dissipation, or devoted to pleasures, destructive to his fortune, which thus falls a prey to sharpers, while the industrious honest tradesman calls in vain for payment at his door.

Yet, even in his improvidence, the natural virtue of his heart sometimes appears, in a manner that softens the severity of censure. Some years ago when he filled one of the most important places of the state, in a neighbouring nation, he had notice given him, that a set of sharpers, disguised with the most delicate and specious art, had entered into a combination against him, but instead of profiting by the friendly caution, and avoiding them, he seemed to throw himself on purpose, into the snares laid for him, till they pillaged him of sums of money, sufficient to distress the greatest fortune.

As it was known, that he had been forwarned of their schemes, his conduct was astonishing to all: but he vindicated it, by saying, that the wretches had put themselves to a considerable expence, and travelled a great way to accomplish their design; if he had disappointed which, they must either have starved or robbed, perhaps from those who might not be able to bear the loss, and then have been hanged; so that he looked upon it as charity, in a double sense, to submit to be cheated by them, and in the same manner does he still vindicate his gaming, with persons so notorious for their villanies, that it is almost infamous to speak to them.

At his left hand, you see a person with an heap of gold before him, which he dissipates with such eagerness, that he seems desirous to be poor. His father

heaped up that wealth, with an avidity, that was a disgrace to human nature. The groans of the distressed, the tears of the orphan and the widow, which he hoarded with his riches, now eat them like a canker: and the gold, that he wrung from the hard hands of the poor, melts in the possession of his spendthrift heir, like snow before the sun. Nor was the fordidness of his heart, in abstaining from the most necessary use of his riches, inferior to his iniquity in acquiring them. He denied himself the very necessities of life, and literally lived in the most abject poverty, for fear of being poor. To this perverse disposition does the person you see, in a great measure, owe his inheriting his wealth; for he had an elder brother, whom the miser had always designed to be his heir, till an ill-timed act of filial piety lost him his favour.

The old man had an ailment in his leg, which, for want of proper and timely care, had grown to such a degree of malignancy, that it at length became absolutely necessary to cut it off, in order to save his life. Terrible as the apprehension of such an operation must be, the expence of it gave him still greater concern. To have it done therefore, in the cheapest manner, he made his eldest son disguise himself in a mean dress, and take a lodging for him in a garret, in one of the obscurest corners of the town, whither he removed himself by night, and, under the character of a poor tradesman, sent for a surgeon who lived in that neighbourhood, and advertised his skill at the lowest price. His son, whose near prospect of such immense inheritance did not efface his filial duty and affection, was shocked at such an instance of avarice, and though he dared not contradict, was resolved to counteract it. Accordingly, when he was sent for the surgeon, for his father had not revealed his retreat to any of his servants for obvious reasons,

instead of going to the quack, as he was directed, he went to one of the most eminent surgeons of the age, and, revealing the whole affair to him, prevailed on him for a large gratification, to disguise himself, and undertake to perform the operation, for whatever trifle should be offered him, and then told his father, with an appearance of joy, that, as he was going for the advertising surgeon, he had luckily met in an ale-house, where he was directed to inquire for him, a person who had been many years a surgeon's mate on board a man of war, who he was sure would cut off his leg, not only much better, but cheaper also, as his appearance shewed that he was starving, and must be glad to take whatever he could get.

Such a lucky hit raised the old man's spirits so, that he submitted to the operation without farther concern, which was performed in so masterly a manner, that, in a fit of unwonted generosity, he gave the surgeon half a guinea, though he had bargained with him for a crown; but then he comforted himself, when he began afterwards to reflect upon his extravagance, that he could not stop it out of the fees for his attendance. In the same manner as he had imposed a good surgeon upon him, did his unfashionable son supply him with all things necessary for his condition, by making a woman in whom he could confide, bring them every day, as if from a lady of fortune, a patient of the surgeon's, to whom he had represented him as an object of charity; for, if he had had no other support but what he allowed himself, he must have perished for want of proper nourishment. When his cure was completed by this management, and he came to discharge the surgeon, after lamenting his inability to make a more suitable return, he offered him a couple of guineas; but the surgeon not thinking it necessary to carry on the deceit any longer, now the end was answered, told him that he need

make no apology, for his son had already given him two hundred.—“ My son, Sir, I do not understand you” (answered the wretch, in the most violent agitations of surprise, confusion and rage) “ Yes, Sir,” “ (replied the surgeon, addressing him by his name, and telling his own) “ your son, to whom you are “ indebted for your life more ways than one : for it “ was he that supplied you with the things which you “ imagined to have been sent you out of charity.”—

Shocking as this discovery was, the old miser recovered presence of mind to carry it off in an admirable manner. “ Sir,” (said he) “ I have a proper “ sense of my son’s duty, and of your skill in your “ profession ; though you have prevented my making an acknowledgment of them in the manner I “ intended : For you must not think that I have “ been deceived ; I knew you all along ; and I removed to this place, and took this method of concealing myself, both to avoid the trouble and impertinence of visitors and complimentary messages, “ and to make trial of my son’s duty ; of which I have “ now had sufficient proof.”—Saying this, he took the surgeon by the hand, and accepted his offer of continuing to attend him till his wound should be quite healed, with the greater readiness, as he was paid already ; but to his son he behaved in a different manner, for he directly made a new will, by which he bequeathed his immense fortune to the next brother, the person before us, leaving the other to pine out his days in poverty, on a poor annuity, *in reward for his obedience and duty* (in the very words of his will) : An injustice that was farther aggravated, by his having made him relinquish the most promising hopes of rising in the army, and resign his commission, some time before, merely to attend upon him. Such a shock was almost too great for human fortitude : The injured gentleman sunk under it ;

hopes, that it was expected he would advance, in the steps of his father, to the highest rank of a subject. To facilitate these hopes, at his return from his travels, in which he had not only gone to see, but had also taken time to consider, the principal countries of *Europe*, with those of *Africa* and *Asia*, whose interests might any ways affect that of his own, or whose history, illustrated thus by observation, might teach him to improve the advantages of his own country, and avoid the evils which had been the ruin of others, he was placed in the lower house of the senate, with every advantage of fortune, interest, and opinion, to support the exertion of his abilities.

He had scarce made himself known here, in his proper light, when the death of his father raised him into the house of *Peers*, where he soon established a weight that made him of real consequence to the nation, and alarmed the fears of the ministry, who as they could not confute, resolved to corrupt him, if possible; for which end the deepest schemes were put in practice to relax his morals, and embarrass his fortune, as the present situation of both raised him above their attempts.

It would require uncommon virtue to resist the temptations to vice, in an age whose refinements have taken off every grossness, and almost every horror of its appearance. His regard was won, by a most delicate application to that vanity, which is too often the shadow of merit, especially in youth; the very persons who designed to change his principles, seeming to give up theirs to the superior force of his reason.

Such artifice soon won the confidence of his unguarded heart, and inclined it to receive their opinions and advice, without farther examination; as the heat of youth and a vivid imagination assisted their designs against his fortune, the success of which was in itself a sufficient reward.

He had always expressed a dislike to *play*, nor ever gave into it but in complaisance to company. To conquer this aversion was therefore their last labour, in which they found easier success than they could even have hoped for. The affluence of his fortune made him above apprehension of loss, and a disdain to be excelled, even in an art he disapproved, engaged him with a keenness, that soon made his advances in the art a pleasure to him.

The work was now done ; and a few years of his own industry, with the assistance of his friends, and the management of his faithful steward, made him willing to enter into the pay of a ministry, which he might in less time have over-turned.

This was his situation at that time ; but some secret struggles, which I saw reason and virtue making in his heart, make me think he meditates a revolt from his infatuation, which the least liberty to his natural good sense could not fail to accomplish : an event which the rapacity of *Poundage* must hasten, to his own ruin.

The person, in whose possession I left the scene you have just beheld, was one of those who had been so successful in initiating my late master into all the mysteries of pleasure. Indeed, he seemed designed by nature to extend his empire over all mankind, making it the sole object of abilities equal to the most exalted pursuits, to invent new, to improve the old methods of gratifying sense, and enforcing his precepts, by an example so keen, and a conversation so captivating, as not to be resisted.

Appetites so extensive required a large support ; to provide which, for fortune had so far frowned upon his birth, that he was but a younger brother, he was compelled to steal some moments from his darling pleasures, and sacrifice them to business.—The interest of his family and his own abilities had raised

him to the first employments in the state; but as the sole motive of his submitting to the restraint of any application, was to acquire a fund for the gratification of his pleasures, his haste to arrive at that end precipitated him into the most destructive measures, and made him ready and eager to embrace every opportunity of sacrificing, or rather selling the interest of his country for present private gain.

The proper application of the gifts of heaven makes them a blessing. This cast of his disposition made those abilities, which under a right direction, would have been of the highest service to himself and his country, a real prejudice to both, making him the ready and dangerous instrument of the most enormous crimes, that could promise gratification to his passions.

In such a life, there must necessarily be many disagreeable occurrences, but they make no impression on him, for his whole soul is so devoted to pleasure, that upon the least miscarriage in business, he finds immediate relief in the return of that, which he can fly to, without any difficulty, the natural vivacity of his temper, that makes his conversation so bewitching to others, never yielding to a second moment's vexation at any one event.

As the viper bears in herself the antidote of her poison, this dissipation of temper prevents his abilities from doing all the mischief he otherwise might, by pulling off the mask, and shewing his designs too soon for their accomplishment. The very persons, who would gladly avail themselves of the venality, not daring to trust to the inconstancy of his disposition; so that he soon lost his greatest power of doing evil, otherwise than by opposing, and impeding the measures of those, whose successful honesty disappointed his designs, and shewed the danger of them in its proper light.

You will not imagine, that my stay could be long in his possession. He that very day gave me to an author, for throwing dirt on the characters of those who had detected and defeated his schemes, of leading his country into ruin.

• C H A P. XIX.

The history and character of CHRYSAL's new master. His adventures at a coffee house. The fun of a modern GENIUS retorted upon himself, by the grave rebuke of a testy veteran.

MY new master was a votary of *Apollo*, in the double capacity of phyfic and letters: for, the former not affording scope enough for his genius, he usually dedicated his leisure hours to the gentler entertainment of the latter, through the extensive circle of which he had occasionally run; there not being a branch in the wide wood of science which had not felt his pruning; the lowest rudiments of the most vulgar arts being, in his opinion, no more beneath the philosophic pen, than the most abstruse heights of speculation.

It must be owned, that, in such a latitude of study, he often was obliged to prostitute his labours; but from this he had the solid consolation, that his gain generally rose, in proportion as his subject sunk, the caprice of the world paying best, that is, buying most eagerly, what it affected to decry most. Nor is this to be wondered at, a loose tale, or a receipt for cooking a new dish, being better adapted to general taste, than a moral essay, or metaphysical speculation.

From his patron's levee, my master went directly home, and, undressing into his cap and slippers, as-

sended to his study, and took a meditative turn of two, revolving in his mind the many grievances that called upon him for redress, from the success of that morning.

At length, bursting into a rapture, he cried, "I'll think no more! Be the wants of yesterday forgot! those of to-morrow will come too soon, without the anticipation of thought! I cannot pay all I owe! I cannot provide all I want! Hence then, vain care! I'll depend on fortune, and myself, for a greater supply another day, and indulge my genius with the present."—Big with this heroic resolution, he gave orders for dinner, and then, sending for his best suit home, he dressed himself in all his pride, and went to a coffee house to look at the papers.

The pleasure of *my* company had given such a flow to his spirits, naturally high, that soon drew the attention of the coffee-room, the greater part of the company gathering in a circle round him, to hear his remarks on the publication of the day, which he threw out with the confidence of one, who thought his opinion the established standard of all writing: and, at the same time, with a sprightliness that made his very impudence and his absurdity entertaining.

While he was thus running on, in the torrent of harangue, a *veteran*, whose employment, for many years was talking over the actions of his youth, and comparing them to the mistakes and losses of the present times, no longer able to contain his rage, at having his audience drawn from him, in the midst of his daily tale, rose up with an execration that shook the room, and calling for his clock and cane, "This is not to be borne (exclaimed he.) Here, waiter, take for my coffee! I shall stay in such a place no longer: is this the land of freedom, forsooth! that a man must be disturbed in his discourse, and not

“ have liberty to speak where he spends his money ?
“ Had I the command here, I’d settle other orders ;
“ every prattling puppy should not presume to inter-
“ rupt his betters : things are like to go well with
“ us, when matters of the highest consequence can be
“ broken in upon by noise and nonsense. This is
“ freedom with a vengeance !”

The look and accent with which these words were pronounced, were too terrible for my master to encounter ; both nature and experience having giving him so lively an apprehension of danger, that his readiest presence of mind was not always able to conceal it. He was, therefore, cut short at once, and could scarce muster spirits to throw a wink at some of those about him, as the *man of war* looked another way.

But the triumph was not so absolute over all the company, one of whom, resolving to have some *fun*, cries out, “ Pray, doctor, proceed ; you are just in
“ the most interesting part of your story : the colo-
“ nel could not mean to interrupt you ; he is too fond
“ of telling his own story to give another such pain ;
“ go on, you should not be frightened at a flash in the
“ pan.”

“ Frighted, indeed,” (replied the doctor, gathering courage when he saw himself supported) “ at
“ what, I wonder ! at the sight of what old age can
“ sink to ! no, no ! I am not so easily frightened ! I
“ leave that to antiquated heroes, the exploits of
“ whose youth have exhausted their courage : I
“ mean no offence ;—but to go on, as I was saying,
“ *the discovery of the sleep of plants accounts in the clearest*
“ *manner*”—“ Hold, doctor (cries the other) “ that
“ was not *as you were saying*, you were telling us of a
“ nobleman, who caught his coachman in bed with
“ his lady, one morning, when he came home,

“ sooner than usual from the tavern, pray how did
“ she bring herself off?

“ Oh, was that it (replied the doctor) faith I had
“ forgot; the fury of *Mars* had like to have made
“ a gap in the annals of *Venus*: ha! ha! ha! why
“ she made nothing of it, but laughing in his face,
“ most heroically, *tit for tat*, my dear, is but fair
“ play (said she) while I say nothing at your staying
“ out night after night with *Kitty*, you cannot in con-
“ science blame my comforting myself a little with
“ *John*.”

The colonel stood all the while convulsed with rage,
too big for utterance, but the universal laugh, that
followed the doctor's last words, rousing him, he ad-
vanced to him, “ whom do you dare to laugh at, *pol-*
“ *troon*? (says he taking him by the nose) whose cou-
“ rage is exhausted? but you are beneath my notice
“ or resentment, farther than this”——(then spitting
full in his face, he turned to the gentleman who had set
the doctor on, and who now began not to like the joke
any farther) “ But for you, Sir! you perhaps may be
“ a gentleman, and worth calling to a further ac-
“ count! will you please to walk up stairs with me,
“ and let me know what you mean by a flash in the
“ pan?”

The ceremonies of attending him, on such an ex-
pedition, would not have been much more agreeable
to this gentleman than to my master, but he had
more command of his fear, and was well used to
bring himself off with a joke. “ Sir (says he) you
“ need not give yourself the trouble of going up stairs,
“ for what I can as well do here! By bidding the
“ doctor not be frightened, I meant at the circum-
“ stances of his own story, for, just as you interrupt-
“ ed him, he had said, that the lord snapped a pistol
“ at his lady, which had flashed in the pan! That
“ was all, Sir! I could never mean it to offend you,

“ or shew a doubt of your courage, which I have
 “ heard you relate so many surprising instances of,
 “ so often, and always so invariably alike, that they
 “ must be true.”

“ Sir! Sir! have a care (replied the colonel) I do
 “ not desire to be troubled with such a gentleman
 “ as I perceive you are! But let me tell you, Sir,
 “ that I have seen a man’s face broke before now,
 “ for wearing such a sneer! As to the stories I tell,
 “ I am satisfied they will be of no service to you, nor
 “ raise the least emulation in a man who can stay
 “ lounging about town, when his country has oc-
 “ casion for him. I was younger than you when I
 “ went a volunteer with lord *Cutts*, under the duke
 “ of *Marlborough*, nor was I urged by want. I had
 “ a good estate, Sir, sufficient to supply me with
 “ what you call the pleasures of life, if I could have
 “ thought any thing a pleasure that was not attended
 “ with honour. Sir, I lost this hand at *Blenheim*,
 “ and this leg at *Malplaquet*! But why do I tell you
 “ so! you will preserve your hands to take snuff;
 “ and your legs to walk the park, the proper scene
 “ of your campaigns.”——With which words the
 “ doughty hero marched away to his chariot.”

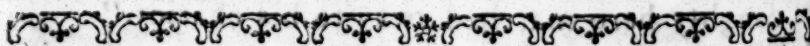
Though this lecture was rather too grave for the
 taste of the person to whom it was addressed, it gave
 great pleasure to the unconcerned part of the compa-
 ny, and to none more than my master, who had wiped
 his face, and begun to come to himself, as soon as
 he saw the danger directed another way.

Before the gentleman could speak, the doctor came
 up to him, and said, “ I am sorry, Sir, that
 “ you should have drawn this storm upon yourself,
 “ upon my account! But I bore the worst of it!
 “ You heard but the whistling of the winds, the
 “ shower fell on me! ’tis well, though, that what
 “ such dotards do is not esteemed an affront!”——

“ An affront, Sir, (replied the other) I do not understand you! I hope you do not insinuate, that there was any affront offered to me, or that I was in the least concerned in what was said, only to you!” — “ Not at all, Sir, (returned the doctor) not at all, Sir, the colonel’s discourse was all directed to me, to be sure! and I hope to profit by it, thus far, that I will not interrupt him again!”

— And with these words he left his former friend the field, not caring to enter into any farther altercation with him, for fear he might take it into his head to vindicate his character on *him*, as *he knew his man*.

Such slight rebuffs made not a moment’s impression on the temper of my master: he was used to, and made nothing of them! A good dinner, and a bottle of wine, sent him in the evening, in a critical enthusiasm, to the theatre, where all actions fell short of the sublimity of his conception, all expression of the warmth of his feeling, as he fully explained to every company in the coffee house, while he sat at public supper, after the play was done.



CH A P. XX.

Some further account of CHRYSA L’s master. His conversation and engagements with two booksellers. Some of the secrets of the trade. CHRYSA L changes his service.

EXTENSIVE as these scenes were, they shewed not my master in his proper light. His peculiar sphere was in study, where the inconsistency of his works shewed the *chaos* in the brain, from whence they sprung. *Chaos* did I say! *Chaos* is order to the

confusion there. For surely the discordant seeds of such ill-matched things were never jumbled together before. An auctioneer's library is a regular system, in comparison to his head. Such an heap has neither beginning nor end. No fixed point to commence a description from. I shall therefore wave such an attempt, and only strive to convey some idea of it, from its effects—At five the next morning he arose to his labours, the first of which was to consider, what he should begin the day with, such was the multitude he had in hand. But what reason could not determine, chance must, and he took them as they happened to lie, *panegyric, libel, physic, divinity, cookery, criticism, politics, ballads, botany, &c. &c. &c.* In all of which he indefatigably worked the task of the day, changing his subject with as little concern as he did his paper: and, though such rambling prevented his ever getting deeper than the surface of any subject, yet it shewed the extent and volubility of his capacity, and that it wanted only regular application, to any science, to be eminent in it.

As soon as he had finished, and the *devils* had carried away his labours, he was just descending to go out, when a bookseller came to pay him a visit. After much ceremony on one side, and little civility on the other, Mr. *Vellum* thus accosted my master: Well, “Sir, I see there is no dependance on the word “of an author! I thought I was to have the answer “to yesterday’s pamphlet last night! some-body else “will do it, and then I shall be finely off.”

“Upon my honour, Sir, (replied my master) I assure you I should have done it, but some business.” —“*What business can you have, that should interfere a moment with your engagements with me?*”—“Dear “Mr. *Vellum*, do but hear me! There is a noble “lord going to be divorced for impotence; I just “got a hint of the matter, night before last, and

“waited upon his lordship’s gentleman yesterday
 “morning, with whom I have a particular intimacy,
 “having served him in my profession more than once;
 “and from him I have learned the whole story, and
 “now leave me to set it out! I’ll engage to make a
 “noble eighteen penny worth of it, at least, by to-
 “morrow morning.” “*Why, there may be something*
 “*in that; but in the mean time you would not let other*
 “*matters cool!*”—Never fear, pray how did yester-
 “day’s pamphlet do?”—“*Why, tolerably well; but*
 “*the scandal was so gross, that I was almost afraid.*”
 —“Aye! aye! never fear me for a home cut! ne-
 “ver fear me!”—“*But I hear nothing of the exercita-*
 “*tions!*”—“No; I sent away the sheet above an hour
 “ago!”—“*Then there’s that book you promised to re-*
 “*write; some one else will do it and prevent you.*”—
 “Never fear, I have just laid down a scale for the
 “style; beside, I have altered the title already;
 “and that you know is the principal thing.”—
 “*That is right! Now you speak of titles, I want half*
 “*a dozen directly! this very day if possible!*”—’Tis
 rather too late now; but where are the books?”
 —“*In the lumber-garret, where they have been these*
 “*seven years.*”—“That is well, they are forgot by
 “this.”—“*Forgot, why they were never known! the*
 “*author was a man of fortune, who printed them at his*
 “*own expence, but I prevented the sale, and so had them*
 “*for the publishing! Ha! ha! ha! beside a good confi-*
 “*deration for buying up at a double price, what I had*
 “*(NOT) sold of them; so that it was not a bad job; and,*
 “*now he is dead, they may safely come out under new titles!*
 “—It will be too great a delay to wait to see them, but
 “*here are the old titles, which I suppose may do.*”—
 “Why, aye: they may do! but I cannot possibly
 “write them this evening; you know I must answer
 “that pamphlet I wrote last week, before it is for-
 “got; I have an answer ready, that will make a

“noise; I expect it will raise a curiosity, that will
 “sell another addition of the pamphlet. I left opens
 “for such retorts upon the characters I praised in
 “that, and have such pieces of secret history to hit
 “them off with, that I’ll engage for the success.”

—“*Aye, secret history, and stories of family misfortunes,
 “and such like may do something! but I had like to have
 “forgot the main business of my coming. There is an ac-
 “count of the death of an eminent divine, this morning:
 “could we not vamp up a volume or two of sermons for
 “him, think you? He was suspected of heresy and atheism,
 “and you know that would make any thing in his name go
 “off.*”—“Egad, a good thought! and particularly
 “lucky at this time: for as I have been engaged in
 “divinity lately, I know the weak sides of the ques-
 “tion, and a little infidelity will be a refreshment to
 “me. It shall be done! the sermons shall be ready
 “without delay! Have you not got some by you that
 “did not go off: let me have one of each, and I’ll
 “interline them to save time; but will you publish
 “them yourself?—I thought you had given up ser-
 “mons!”—*Myself! no! no! I’ll send them into Mr.
 “Vampe; I’ll reserve the confutation of them to myself?”*
 —“Egad, another good thought; the confutation
 “will do better! and I’ll take care to make it a smart
 “one, and play the devil with the author; ha, ha,
 “ha.—But, Mr. Vellum, your coming here this
 “morning prevented my waiting on you: it is a
 “great while since you promised to settle with me.
 “You should consider, Sir”——“*What pray, good
 “Sir, should I consider? that I have supported you!*”
 —“Supported me, Mr. Vellum! Sir, I have a pro-
 “fession”——“*I know you have, Mr. Doctor; a pro-
 “fession indeed, in which his Majesty’s subjects may bless
 “God that nine and ten of you would starve, if they had
 “no other way of getting their bread beside that*”—“Mr.
 “Vellum, you know this way of talking signifies

“ nothing. It is a long time since we have settled
 “ any account, and there are a great many articles!
 “ Let me see: aye, here they are! and a long list
 “ it is! NINETEEN PAMPHLETS with ANSWERS to
 “ FOURTEEN of them; NINE RAPES, SIX MUR-
 “ DERS, FIVE FAST and FOUR FUNERAL SERMONS,
 “ THIRTY-SIX ESSAYS, TWENTY-TWO TITLES,
 “ FOUR QUARTO VOLUMES RE-WRIT, SEVENTEEN
 “ WILLS, TWENTY-FOUR”——“ Go on, Sir, go on!
 “ but when you have done look at THIS, and then talk to
 “ me of an account; here is your bond for 15*l*. which is
 “ due these two years; and it is very likely, to be sure,
 “ that you should leave it outstanding so long, if you had
 “ an account to set off against it! but I am glad I know
 “ you; and, since you talk of accounts, observe that I de-
 “ mand my money, due on this bond, which I will have,
 “ and when you have paid that, it will be time enough
 “ for me to settle accounts with you; so, Sir, your servant.”
 —“ Mr. Vellum, good Mr. Vellum, do not be so hasty!
 “ I did not mean to give you offence”——“ Accounts
 “ indeed! have I not supplied you with paper above the
 “ weekly allowance we agreed for, and yet you talk to me!”
 —“ Mr. Vellum, I may be in the wrong; let matters
 “ stand as they are: but you have not told me what
 “ size you would have this affair of the divorce,
 “ that I mentioned to you just now”——“ There it is
 “ now; that is your way always; you know my easy tem-
 “ per, and that you can bring me down when you please:
 “ why if the story will bear much painting, and the cir-
 “ cumstances are very strong and plain, I believe you may
 “ draw it out to two shillings; and to encourage you,
 “ and show you that I mean generously by you, when you
 “ have finished that, and the Answer, and the Sermons,
 “ and the Confutations, and the Titles, and the Exer-
 “ citations, I will give up your bond, and then we will
 “ begin an account on fair even terms. But I am in haste,
 “ I have three or four other gentlemen to call upon; I shall

"depend upon your promise, and so good morning."—
 "Good morning to you, good Mr. *Vellum*.—Damn-
 ed imposing, grinding scoundrel; but I'll be quit-
 "with you, for all your tricks (said the doctor, as
 "soon as Mr. *Vellum* was out of the room) and teach
 "such stupid rascals to attempt outwitting men of
 "genius."

When I considered the nature and importance of my master's demand, I could not but wonder at the ease with which he took a denial, and the joy he expressed at Mr. *Vellum*'s departure; but the mystery was so cleared up, by the arrival of Mr. *Pamphlet*, another of the trade, almost the very moment *Vellum* went down stairs, and whom I saw by his reception, my master expected.

If I was before shocked at the cruelty with which I thought *Vellum* treated my master, I was now no less so, at the part he acted with *Pamphlet*, with whom he bargained over again for the same very *ware* which he before promised to *Vellum*, and flattered him with an assurance of having his business done, that is, the answers and re-writing, before *Vellum* possibly could, for they were mortal enemies.

The discourse between these was much the same as the former, only that it was concluded in a different manner; *Pamphlet* giving my master a couple of pieces to put him in mind of his engagement.

I was utterly at a loss to know how he meant to act between these two; when he put an end to my doubts by this soliloquy. "So now, I have dispatched you two, the day is my own; keep my engagements! I will, with both alike. Let me see, there is nothing in it but a little trouble of writing: I can divide the hits between both answers, according to the opens I have left on purpose, and so send them to both at the same time; only to divide the alterations in my scale of style,

“ and make a second title, and so ’tis done. This
“ method that I have found of using a feigned name,
“ makes it all easy. Well, let those who were born
“ to fortunes, spend them in sloth and ignorance, I
“ have an estate in myself, that can never be exhaust-
“ ed. I am obliged to nature only for my abilities,
“ and carry the fountain of honour and fortune in
“ fluency of my genius.”

He then descended from his aerial citadel, and, going out *to visit* his patients, *changed* me at a coffee-house, where I was immediately borrowed at the bar by an officer, who was going to dine with his general, and wanted money to give his servants.



B O O K II.

C H A P. I.

CHRYSAI enters into the service of a gentleman of a general. Gratitude in high and low life. The modern way of rising in the world, and the happiness of dependance. Influence of CHRYSAI's master, with his curious manner of supporting it.

Y O U may judge that my stay with this owner was but short: he gave me directly to the general's *gentleman*, with a letter to be presented to his excellency next morning, as he could not find courage to speak to him in person.

The case of this person, though not uncommon among men, I own affected me. He was the son of an officer of distinguished merit, the services of whose life had, in the 80th year of it, been rewarded with the command of a regiment, and the hopes of his son crowned with a pair of colours; which, on the death of his father, in six months after his elevation, he found to be his whole inheritance; the fees of office, and the equipage for his new rank, having exhausted all the savings of the old man's subaltern frugality.—The most exemplary duty, in five warm campaigns,

had advanced the son to the rank of a lieutenant, when the exaltation of the person to whom he now applied, raised his hopes to a company, which was vacant in the regiment, and his right by seniority; for such was his ignorance of mankind, that he built sanguine expectations on the very reasons that should have deprived him of any, *the obligation of the person to whom he applied, to his father*, who had taken him up the poor friendless orphan of an ensign, educated him at his own expence, procured him his first commission, and afterwards lent him the money with which he had purchased his company: a debt which the son was weak enough to expect a friendship from, though it, and much more, had long since been cleared at play.

But, though the character of the son, and the general's known intimacy with the father, in a manner obliged him to promise him his friendship, yet nothing was farther from his thoughts than ever to do him any real service; as he imagined that would be acknowledging the obligation which his very attendance seemed to upbraid him with: a dinner now and then being the only favour he ever had, or ever meant to give him. You may perhaps have experienced the misery of a dependant's dining at the table of his patron, where the tortures of *Tantalus* are aggravated by the anxiety of giving offence. I shall therefore hasten over this, and the other scenes of that evening which were but the common occurrences of military greatness, and ended in a deep debauch, as soon as all but the *chosen few* had retired, to come to the conclusion of my *late* master's story, in which my *present* bore a considerable part.

As soon as the general had slept off the fumes of his wine, and awoke next morning, my master's hour of influence arrived, which he never failed to improve. After a prelude of coughing and spitting, the

Scene opened thus: *Who's there? William!*—"Sir,"—"William was not I very drunk last night?"—"my head aches most confoundedly."—"Your excellency was a little cut, but you broke up much the strongest of the company."—"Aye, I wonder at that, I spend myself with talking, when I begin to go, and that helps a man on damnably: that story of the battle where I was taken prisoner, is a bottle in my way always."—"That foreign gentleman who never speaks a word, has a great advantage then—"Aye, so he has, but he is a damned honest fellow, and a very good companion; he always fills a bumper and never speaks a word.—But my head.—"Perhaps your excellency had better take something."—"No, I have taken too much already; though that's right; give me a glass of the old geneva; I am to go to council to-day, and must settle my head—Aye, that will do, I am much better now; there is nothing like the hair of the old dog."

This conversation continued till he was seated to breakfast, when my master turned to a new topic. "I was very sorry (said he) that your excellency happened to set in last night, as Mrs. Motherly was to call"—"Why that's true, William, I did not think of one engagement when I made the other; and, when she called me out, I was not in cue; I was too far gone. We old fellows are not sparrows; the spirit is often willing, when the flesh is weak; ha, ha, ha!"—"Your excellency is pleased to be merry, but, to my thinking, the youngest fellow of the age has not more vigour"—"Aye, William, do you think so indeed?"—"But why do you think so, William?"—"Because your excellency always chuses such green things: now I should think a ripe woman would be better; I am sure she would give less trouble."—"Ha, ha, ha, why, that's your taste; but youth is mine; and whilst I have powers (and I do not think mine quite gone yet) I

"will please my taste. But what had Mrs. Motherly last
 "night?"—"A ver fine girl as your excellency could
 "wish to see." "How old?"—"About sixteen."—
 "Psha, mellow pears; I loath such trash."—"But Mrs.
 "Motherly said she could swear she was untouched.
 "She came from the country but yesterday, a rela-
 "tion of her own: the poor thing knew nothing of
 "the matter, and thought she came to be hired for a
 "laundry-maid."—"Why that is something, but I
 "wish she were younger."—"If your excellency but please
 "to wait a little, I have one in my eye that will suit
 "your taste exactly; a sweeter child is not in all Eng-
 "land."—"Aye, good William, (spitting once or
 "twice, and wriggling in his chair) Aye, that is some-
 "thing, but how old?"—"Just ten, and finely grown"
 —"Right, the right age. That's true! I'll speak this
 "very day for that place for your brother. "Tell him to
 "come to-morrow: I will not be refused."—"We are
 "both obliged to your excellency for your favours."
 —"But when shall I see this girl? Give Motherly some
 "excuse with her ripe fruit. Sixteen! sixty! psha!"—
 "Sir, I shall go about it this very evening. A letter
 "from captain Standard; will your excellency please to
 "read it?"—"Damn him and his letter: throw it into
 "the fire! What would the unreasonable scoundrel have?
 "Did I not give him his dinner yesterday? Has he not
 "been introduced to good company at my table? If he had
 "any industry or spirit, with these advantages, he would
 "have learned to play, and made his fortune as others do.
 "Since he grows troublesome on encouragement, I'll starve
 "him into better manners. Bid the porter strike him of the
 "dinner list."—"I beg your excellency's pardon, for
 "mentioning him; but the manner I have heard
 "you talk to him made me imagine you eal-
 "ly did design to provide for him: and he says
 "there is a vacancy in the regiment just now."—
 "Damn his impudence! a vacancy indeed! I shall never

"think there is a good one till he makes it at Tyburn."—
"I beg your excellency's pardon: I shall never men-
tion him more. Would you have me go about the
child this evening? it is a little angel to be sure."
"This moment if you think you can succeed."—"I shall
 try at any rate: but there is one obstacle."—
"What is that? you know I never grudge money on these
occasions. How much will do?"—"That is not the
 difficulty here; money will not do, and I hardly
 know what will."—"Money not do? What the devil can
 it be that money will not do?"—"I scarce, know how to
 mention it to your excellency, but the little cherub is
 niece to captain Standard, his sister's daughter, and,
 while he is in the way, there will be no possibility
 of getting at her."—"Is that all? then he shall join
 the regiment to-morrow."—"But then he will leave
 such an impression of your unkindness upon his sis-
 ter, if there is nothing done for him, after waiting
 so long, that it will be impossible for any person
 belonging to you to gain access."—"What would
 you have me do? I never will bear to have the fellow
 get a company in my regiment: that would be acknow-
 ledging the obligations he has the impudence to say I re-
 ceived from his father; I never will bear it."—"I beg
 your excellency's pardon; I did not presume to point
 out any such thing, and indeed the possession of
 such a baby (though my eyes never beheld her fel-
 low) is not worth your giving yourself so much trou-
 ble about; she is quite too young, though so well
 grown."—"You say she is but ten! and such a beau-
 ty!"—"I wish your excellency could but see her, for I
 am unable to describe her."—"But cannot some way be
 found out, besides fixing this fellow under my nose?"—
 "That was just what I was going to take the liberty
 of hinting to your excellency. There are several
 gentlemen of fortune in the troops just ordered to
 America, who have no liking to the voyage. Now,

"I think, with submission, that you would oblige
 "some of them with an exchange into your regiment,
 "and let captain *Standard* go in his place. And this
 "will oblige him too; for I have often heard him
 "wish to go there, in hopes of rising, when they
 "come into action."—"A good thought, and so I will.
 "Let the fellow go to America and get scalped; his bot
 "head wants to be cooled: such poor wretches as he are
 "just fit to be transported there. Tell him to prepare di-
 "rectly! I long to be rid of him. But when shall I see
 "the dear little creature?"—In twenty-four hours after
 "he is gone, I'll undertake to have her eating sugar-
 "plums, and sobbing in your bosom. It cannot
 "possibly be sooner, for you know the captain's
 "spirit, and that he would cut the throat of a prince
 "who would dishonour his family, as he calls it."—
 "Aye, damn his spirit, that is true; that is what has
 "kept me civil to the fellow so long: I know he has all the
 "romantic madness about honour and such stuff, that made
 "his fool of a father live and die a beggar."

By this time his excellency was dressed to go to council, for which another dram settled his head.

I see your surprise, at the brutal behaviour of the master and the infamous designs of the man. The former is beyond aggravation; but the latter were only an honest artifice in favour of his friend, who had no such niece in the world.

C H A P. II.

The history of Mr. WILLIAM. Some odd circumstances in his conduct accounted for. By a progression equally polite and frugal. CHRYSAL comes from his possession into that of a celebrated female.

WILLIAM was a son of the regiment, born of one of the general wives that followed it.

He was about the same age with *Standard*, who had taken such a liking to him, when they were boys, that he shared his allowance with him, gave him his old cloaths, and taught him what he learned at school. A natural acuteness of genius improved these advantages so well, that *William* could read and write enough for a gentleman; dance, fence, and scrape on the violin, before his friend's power of serving him was put an end to, by the death of his father; and his spirit and appetites were too great to accept of his offer, of the best support an ensign could spare him, to maintain him as a *cadet*, till his merit should get him a commission. But, though he would not accept he did not forget the offer, nor make his obligations a cause of hatred, now that it was in his power to make some return; a way of thinking that proved the meanness of his birth; for quitting the barren paths of military honour, he had turned his genius to the more thriving profession of a footman; through the various ascents of which he had risen to his present rank of his *excellency's* gentleman; in which he had the unfashionable gratitude to return the favours of his former benefactor in the above manner, which his experience and knowledge of his master's temper convinced him to be the only one he could hope to suc-

ceed in. As to his promise about the child, he was in no pain about that, there being no person who could contradict whatever excuse he should please to give.

There is one circumstance, which I see puzzles you in the character of this man, and that is his taking *me* from his friend, when he must be sensible how badly he could spare such a sum. But you must consider the power of nature when strengthened by habit.

From his mother, *William* had inherited venality, which the bribery of vails, in his present profession, had confirmed beyond all possibility of correction; so that it was no more in his power to refuse a guinea when offered to him, than to change his stature or complexion. And attention to this observation would take off the wonder, and ease the world from the trouble of the exclamations that are daily made, against the rapacity of persons in office, for, as such are generally taken from the class of *William*, it cannot be expected but they must act from the same natural principles with him.

I see the depravity of human nature, when stripped of disguise and ornament, affects your unexperienced heart too strongly. But consider, that we see things as they really are, and to represent them otherwise to you would invert the design of my mission, and confirm, rather than remove the prejudices that lead astray the mind of man.

However this consolation I can give you, that the vices I have already drawn, and may hereafter draw to your view, are not particular to this age or country: they are the weeds which, in every age and clime, have always, and always will, overturn the human heart.

Nor is it just to call them vices (though in compliance with the language of men I do call them so)

which *perhaps* are but * necessary parts of this universal system; and though in a particular instance, and viewed by themselves, they may appear deformed, yet, when thrown into the general representation of things, they may have their beauty and use, if only to diversify the scene: and, with respect to men in particular, be as † advantageous to the community as they are prejudicial to individuals.

But to return to my master *William*. Beside the advantages of education, he had such from nature, that he was not only the most accomplished *gentleman*, but also the handsomest fellow of his time; an happiness, of which he availed himself so well in the *polite* world, that he was the favourite of all the *complaisant* fair, who shared with him the pleasures they only suffered from his superiors for hire.

Of this I saw sufficient proof that very evening, when he went to an assignation with the most celebrated courtesan of the age; who, sacrificing avarice to pleasure, gave orders to be denied to every body, and shut herself up with him, to give a loose to joy for the evening.

This was a scene too sensual for a spirit to describe: I shall therefore only say, that their fatigue and waste of spirits were recruited with the highest delicacies and richest wines, and the pauses of joy enlivened with the recital of the adventures of their professions, heightened with the most poignant ridicule of those whose folly was *their* fortune.

Before satiety could pull their pleasures, time summoned them to business. The fair to prepare for the reception of her *friend*; and my master to

* From hence it should seem, that the hint of a late treatise, on the origin of evil, was borrowed, or else dictated by the same spirit.

† Fable of the bees.

wait on *his*: when, to conclude the evening with proper gallantry, he presented me to the maid at the door.

I was a good deal surpris'd, at being received with less emotion by this portress of *Venus* than I had ever found before; the sight of me having always rais'd joy. But this was soon explained, when, on returning to her mistress, she threw me on the table, and received a shilling in exchange. An instance of that methodical œconomy, which, by many small savings, makes up for one large expence, and extracts profit even from pleasure.

The joy of the mistress seem'd to make amends to my vanity for the indifference of her maid, and promis'd me the full possession of her heart; but I soon found myself mistaken, and that her love for me was only while I was the property of another; for no sooner did I become her own, than she threw me carelessly into her purse, and turned her thoughts immediately to the acquisition of more. But, though I lost the greatest part of my power over her, by coming into her possession, I still found ample room in her heart for my abode.

The apartments were scarce got in order, and my mistress new dress'd, when her *friend* appear'd, to whom he flew with all the appearance of rapture. But, however he might be deceived, the difference was plain to me, between the joyless caresses she sold to him, and the extasy she shar'd with my late master, the glow of whose kisses yet reek'd upon her lips. Nor was this strange; the ardour of her lover met her half-way, and communicated as much fire as it received; but with her *keeper* the case was quite otherwise: all the advances were to come from her; all her caresses were a duty; nor were the tenderest she could bestow, able to warm him to the least return.

You wonder that a person in such circumstances should be at the expence and trouble of *keeping* a mistress, whose extravagance was to be equalled only by her insolence. But this is only a small instance of the tyranny of fashion: and how will your astonishment be increased, when I tell you, that this very man, in the prime of life, was remarkable for the coolness of his constitution, and now in its decline was married to a beautiful young lady, whose resentment at his conjugal neglect rose so high, as to charge it to inability.

Whether this was really the case, and that he *kept* my mistress to hide it, as a failing tradesman sets up a coach, or whether the passion remained, but so feebly supported, as to require the lascivious blandishments of a prostitute, I cannot determine, as I was never in his possession, to take a view of his heart.

C H A P. III.

The manner in which CHRYSAL's new mistress received and took care of her friend. How she employed herself while he was asleep. Her management of him next morning.

IT was about two in the morning when my mistress received him drunk and stupified with play, at which he had lost deeply that night. On his coming into her room, he threw himself into a chair, without saying a word, or shewing the least sensibility of her caresses; where after some time he fell fast asleep, which my mistress no sooner perceived, than calling her maid to undress and roll him into bed; "Here, *Jane* (said she) take my place by this heap of mortality. I'll step to—street; perhaps the

“company may not be all gone. Never fear, I’ll
 “insure you from a rape! He wants nothing in a
 “bed-fellow but to keep him warm, and you may
 “do that, while I pass my night better than in nursing
 “his infirmities: I’ll be home before he stirs.”

Jane obeyed her mistress, who slipped into a chair, and went away directly to an house, where she used to piddle away her leisure hours with any chance customers rather than be idle.

About five ended this scene, in the rites of which my mistress bore a distinguished part. I shall not attempt to describe these mysteries: they were too gross for my relation, as well as your conception, in your present mortified habit. She then returned home, and laying her *pure body* in her maid’s place, beside her *friend*, who had not stirred yet, her fatigues soon threw her into a sleep, as sound as his.

It was noon before these fond lovers awoke: the first was my mistress, who, enraged that any thing which bore the name of a man, should shew so little sensibility of her charms, resolved to teaze him with endearments, which, as he was seldom in a humour to return in kind, he never failed to pay for in a more substantial manner.

When she had awoke him with her toying, the *siren* thus began her song: “How can my dearest sleep
 “so long, when his little girl lies languishing by his
 “side! O turn, and let me lay my head on that dear
 “bosom—“ *Ha! what is it o’clock?* (replied the
 “lover, yawning and rubbing his eyes)—“Alas I
 “know not! I have told so many tedious hours, that
 “I have forgot them: but what is time to us, who
 “only live to love?”—“*Past 12! I must be gone!*
 “*some business.*”—Business; leave that for duller souls,
 “who have no taste for pleasure: can you leave love
 “and me for business?”—“*I am sorry I happened to*
 “*oversleep myself, my dear; I believe I was bewitched to*

drink so much ; but we'll make it up another time."—"So you say always ; but that other time will never come : but I will not be served so ; I am flesh and blood, whatever other people may be ; and you yourself know, it is not for want of *friends* I keep myself up, thus, like a nun, for you ; and all, I do not know for what !"

"*Is the girl mad ? Do not I give you every thing you want, every thing you desire ?*"—"No, nor any thing I desire ! I desire now—So you will get up and leave me : I will not be used thus : you have got some other woman : but I here give you fair warning, that I will be even with you ! Sir George was here yesterday ; and so was the young lord—but I would not see either of them : and I am well requited now : but I know where to send to them. I will not be made a fool of every way, for nothing ; and so you may *sleep* where you please, I care not."

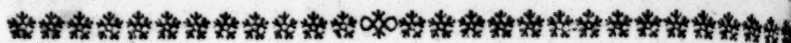
"*Come, my dear, let us not fall out for nothing ; you have not shewn me the diamond ear-rings you got last week.*"—"No, my dear, they are not come home."

"*I thought you told me they were finished when I gave you the money to pay for them.*"—"They were so ; but, when he brought them home, I did not like them. The jeweller told me, they were not so fine as those he made for your lady some time ago ; so I sent them back, and ordered him to make me a pair that should be as good as hers at least."

"*Not good enough, child ! were they not to cost 150l ?*"—"And what is 150l ?—Sir Richard gave his girl a pair that cost 500 ; but if you think these are too dear, you are not obliged to pay for them : there is another who will be glad to do it."—"And pray what are these fine ones to cost ?"—"Why—only but kiss me first—only 200l. But then I have bespoke a necklace with them"—"Zounds, a diamond necklace !"—"And what mighty matter is a diamond necklace ? Pray has not your wife one ?"

" But I see how it is; you think any thing good enough for me; and nothing good enough for her; but every one does not think so: I am not at a loss."—" *Well, you saucy little minx! and what do they all come to?* "—" Another kiss, and I'll tell you: why—don't frown; or I won't tell you at all; —only 500l."—" *500 devil's; that's more than my wife's cost by 100.* "—" And do not you love me 100 times better than your wife? I have given up thousands for you. But, as I said before, you need not pay for them, if you do not chuse it: there are others who will: I see I am slighted; and I deserve it, for slighting so many good offers: but I will not always be a fool!"—" *Well, my dear, for this one time I will humour you: give me the pen and ink: but you must not expect that I shall ever gratify your extravagance so far again:* "—" I thank you, my lord: I shall not trouble you again this great while. But what is this? 350l.! you have made a mistake, my lord; I told you 500l."—" *Well, child, did I not give you 150l. to pay for the other pair?* "—" Yes, my lord; but that was not to pay for this pair though, you know these are dearer."—" *But that and this will.* "—" I am afraid not."—" *How so, child; do not 150 and 350 make 500?* "—" Indeed I am a poor accountant; but I know it will not do."—" *No! why so; I do not understand you:—I'll kiss you first, and then I'll tell you.* "—" *Psba; cease fooling; I am in haste; I must go to court; and have scarce time to dress: where is the 150l.?* "—" There (kiss him)"—" *Where?* "—" Gone, as that kiss is; all gone, and only the relish left behind, to give an appetite for more."—" *Infernal jade!* " (aside) —" What do you say, my lord?"—" *That I cannot will not bear such extravagance,* "—" I am glad I know your mind, my lord: then, if you do not, somebody else will, who will not make such a stin

"about trifles."—"Well, give me that bill."—"No,
 "thank you my dear."—"Why so?"—"For fear
 "you should be a bold boy, and not return it. If
 "you please to give me the other 150*l*. I'll get the
 "necklace and ear-rings; if not, this will serve for
 "some other use."—"Damnation! and then I must give
 "it to her all over again." (aside)—"Well, my lord;
 "you said you were in haste, and so am I."—*Give me*
the pen and ink: there it is, you little termagent: but once
more let me caution you against such extravagance for the fu-
ture."—"And once more, let me tell you, my lord,
 "not to give yourself such airs: extravagance! they
 "that will have delicacies, must pay for them: and,
 "if you think the price too dear, there are more
 "customers in the market; and so, my lord, like it,
 "or like it not, I will be supported, and more than
 "that, what I want in pleasure, shall be made up
 "in profit: let wives save, who may be better for
 "the savings, *our* business is to make hay while the
 "sun shines."—"Come, my dear, let us have no disputes:
 "you have the money now, next time we will clear off the
 "other score: give me a kiss, I'll call in the evening, and
 "take a dish of tea with you: farewell."—"Good mor-
 "row—(after he is gone) for an old impotent, poor-
 "spirited letcher, that must be treated like a dog to
 "make you know your duty. What fool would ever
 "be at the trouble of behaving well to any fellow,
 "when she can, so much better, mould him to her
 "pleasure by ill usage?"



CHAP IV.

The history and character of CHRYSALE's mistress. She gives him to a noted matron. Some account of his new mistress, and her manner of managing her family.

THIS principle she acted up to, for two days that I was in her possession, without any other variation in her conduct, than just what was necessary to work on the various tempers of her lovers, making no real difference between them, except it was, that she always used those worst who used her best.

I have often told you, that sensuality is disagreeable to a spiritual being. I therefore longed to quit this mistress, the succession of whose amours was so constant and quick, that I was astonished how nature could afford a fund of love for them all, in so young a creature, for she was not 20 years old.—I see you have a curiosity to know the history of this young votary of *Venus*, in which you think there must be something extraordinary: but you are deceived; it contains nothing but common occurrences.

She was the daughter of trade's people, in moderate circumstances, whose foolish fondness, because she was a pretty smart child, gave her an education above her rank, in hopes of her making her fortune by marriage.

This raised the vanity, natural to the female heart, so high, that she despised her own station; and not being so fortunate as immediately to climb to the one she desired, by the way proposed, she fell an easy victim to the first seducer who promised it, in any other.

Thus the accomplishments, by which the injudi-

cious tenderness of her parents meant to raise her into a rank higher than their own, became the cause of her falling into that of the lowest of all human beings; a fall, though deplorable in itself, yet un-affecting to her, as the time in which her mind should have been formed to virtue, was given up to the nourishing that vanity which proved her ruin; so that she is absolutely insensible of the wretchedness of her condition, and never has the pursuit of her most infamous profession been disturbed by a moment's remorse.

I told you of her spending the hours that were unemployed at home, at an house in ——— street, where she was always sure of business. Though this venerable mansion was dedicated to the mysterious rites of unrestrained love, yet, as the priests of all temples expect to live by the offerings made at them, her conscience would not permit the priestesses of this to break through an ordinance so long established, and she exacted fees from the votaries of her's: not indeed a tythe, indiscriminately from all, whether they received benefit from their devotion, or not; but always in proportion to the fruits they reaped.

At this shrine was I offered, the third night of my being in the possession of this young devotee, when the plenteousness of her gain, from a multitude of lovers, seemed to her piety to merit so rich a return.

I now entered into a much more extensive scene than my last, the prostitution of which made but a small part of the business of the profession. But what I have related in the history of my late mistress, shall suffice for that branch, nor shall I give more than some outlines of the horrors of the rest.

My new mistress had originally been of the sisterhood of my last, who having fallen a prey to lust, almost in her infancy, and having no beauty, nor any

thing but extreme youth to recommend her, as soon as that was worn out, neglect obliged her to apply to other business for bread, and her natural turn determining her to this, as well as the outrageous virtue of the *undiscovered* part of her own sex, excluding her from every other, she changed her occupation from *yielding*, to *providing* pleasure, in which her success was so great, that she soon became the most eminent of her profession. .

It was near five in the morning when I changed my service; and, business being ended, my late mistress having reigned *sole mistress* of the night, and sent out all the company, there remained nothing to do, after she went home, but to see the inmates to their tuckle-beds in the cock-lofts, where, stripping off every part, not only of the finery, but even of the comforts of dress, they were crowded three or four together, to keep each other warm, under a ragged coverlet under a bare mattress, where their shudderings and groans, made a just contrast to the spirited wickedness of their conversation some hours before.

This was always the fate of those who were not so successful in the evening as to earn the price of a better bed, above the fees of the house, and hire of cloaths.

These happy few were treated with fondness while they squandered their poor *peculium* in a drop of cordial to settle their heads, and were lodged in apartments suited to their purses; though the night before, perhaps, they had experienced the same fate with their sisters above stairs, and knew they must expect it again the next, if unsuccessful in their business.

When matters were thus settled, this happy family disposed themselves to take the best repose which disease in mind and body would permit.

An active spirit disdains rest. Though debauchery had anticipated old age, in the constitution of my mistress, yet her application to business made her refuse nature even necessary indulgence. She was ready to go out before ten that morning, when the modest decency of her dress and appearance were such as drew the general good opinion, and would almost deceive the *devil* himself, on whose most favorite service she was going,

CH A P. V.

CHRYSAL's mistress pays a visit to the last place she could have been suspected for going to. She meets a young lady with whom, by an artifice, she goes home. Her schemes to ensnare the lady.

IF a judgment were to be formed for the whole day, from the manner of beginning it, my mistress should have spent hers most happily; her first visit being to church, where the piety of her behaviour was an edification to the devout matrons, who, having nothing to do at home, meet there regularly, to compare their aches and dreams of the night before, and enjoy the innocent amusement of a little gossiping over the affairs of their neighbours.

But her devotion wasted not itself so fruitlessly: her industry had formed expectations of drawing considerable advantage from it, and so anticipating futurity, and making sure of the reward here, which others waited for in another world.—The immediate motive of her devotion, this morning, was to see a young lady with whom she had commenced an acquaintance at this church, and who constantly attended divine service there. You are surpris'd how she

could think of going to such a place, on a place, on such an errand; but the wolf roams about for prey every where, and is often most successful, where his attempts are least suspected: though I must rob her industry of the merit of design in the first introduction to this affair.

Going through *St. Martin's Lane* one morning, about a month before, she was so struck with the appearance of a lovely young creature, in widow's weeds, who was going into the church, that she followed her; where the fervency with which she poured out her soul in devotion, gave such a lustre to her beauty, and made it shine lovely through her grief, that my mistress immediately marked her for the *list*, not doubting but she should be able to turn her distress to such advantage, as should bring her into her measures, and make her beauty yield her a rich return for her pains, from some of her customers. If you consider the nature of womankind, you will not wonder at this instance of the profligacy of my mistress. They are ever in extremes; either the best or worst of human creatures.—From church she dogged her to her lodging, in a little court, where she lived with a poor, but honest family, in such privacy, that no one in the neighbourhood could give any account of her.

Real virtue shines with a lustre that dazzles the most confirmed vice, and keeps it at an awful distance. My mistress, hardened as she was, in all the ways of sin and impudence, dared not to go directly to her without some business, or introduction: but, as she had not either, her ready genius prompted her to win her good opinion, under an appearance of religion, and then an acquaintance would come easily.

She was not deceived in her expectations: a few mornings constant attendance at church, and the exemplary warmth of her devotions, struck the eye, and opened the heart of unexperienced innocence, to

the acquaintance she wished for, which she did not fail to improve, by the same arts, to some degree of intimacy.

In this situation they were, when she went, but without any appearance of design, to meet her this morning at church, as usual. As they came out together, my mistress, turning with her fair friend, said she had some business into *Long Acre*, and asked her, if she went that way; to which the young lady innocently answered that she did, and should be glad to walk with her.

As they walked together, my mistress turned her conversation on the wicked ways of the town, and particularly the many base designs that were laid to ensnare unwary innocents, adding, that all the pleasure which sensuality could give the most luxurious heart, must fall infinitely short of what she felt at that very moment, in the design she was then going upon, of relieving the distressed of a worthy family.

She had timed her discourse so as to say these words, just as she came to the entrance of the court, in which she knew the widow lived, when, feigning to slip, she fell all along, crying out, as in the utmost agony, that she had wrenched her ankle.

The lady, raising her with the greatest tenderness, expressed her concern for the unhappy accident, and desired she would submit to be helped into *her* lodgings, which fortunately were at the next door, where, though she could be but poorly accommodated, she might be more at her ease than in a more sumptuous place, and should have all the care in her power. This was just what my mistress had schemed for, who, courteously accepting of the offer, made a shift to limp in, without any other assistance than hers.

It raised my indignation to see the tenderness, with which the beautiful young creature pulled off her shoe and stocking, and chafed her ankle, thrown

away upon so unworthy an object, as it did my abhorrence to hear the counterfeit shrieks and groans of my mistress, and the assurance with which she attributed the swellings, caused by debauchery, to this immediate accident.

This affrighted the young lady so, that she in a manner forced her to send for a surgeon, which, with much intreaty, she yielded to do, but it must be for a *friend* of her own, a gentleman who lived a considerable way off, at the polite end of the town, for she could not think of letting any *common low-lived* fellow come near her.

Upon this a porter was directly dispatched for her own surgeon, and in the mean time, as she began to grow easier, she recovered her spirits, and renewed the conversation, that had been broken of by this accident.

“ I was telling you, my dear friend (said she) for
 “ so I shall ever call you from this moment, your
 “ kindness having compleated the conquest which
 “ your beauty had before made of my heart, I was
 “ telling you, that I was going to visit a family this
 “ morning, where I promised myself the highest joy
 “ that a human heart is capable of feeling, in lighten-
 “ ing the distress of the virtuous, by sharing with them
 “ some of that wealth which Heaven has abundantly
 “ blessed me with, and which can justly be applied to
 “ no other use, than making this grateful return to
 “ that goodness which bestowed it.

“ But my heart was too elate with the thought,
 “ and I received this accident as a caution from
 “ Heaven not to flatter myself with any thing so
 “ strongly for the future. But, tho’ I could not have
 “ this pleasure myself, the benefit shall not be de-
 “ layed to them. I will make you my *almoner* ; an of-
 “ fice that I know will suit the goodness of your

“heart. You shall give this packet, which will put
“an end to all their distresses.”

“Oh madam! your good opinion is the greatest
“honour to me (replied the lady) and I hope I shall
“never forfeit it, especially in this commission,
“which I shall undertake with the most sincere joy;
“but pray, dear madam, who are the persons to
“whom I must dispense your goodness?”

“That’s true, my dear (returned my mistress) I
“should give you some account of them, that you
“may be the better able to judge of the joy I feel in
“serving them. It is the widow of an officer, who
“has been killed in this war, and left her with
“three poor babes, destitute of every support, but
“the allowance of the government, which, wretch-
“ed as it is, and only aggravating misery by barely
“prolonging life under it, is often grasped for by
“the hungry mouth in vain, where interest is want-
“ing to procure the immediate relief of it, as was
“her unhappy case; so that they must have actually
“perished for want of food had not providence
“brought them into my knowledge, seemingly by
“the greatest accident, about six months ago, since
“when, I have myself afforded them the necessary
“comforts of life, and have also made such interest
“for them with some of my friends, that I have here
“got them a grant of a pension, on the *Irish establish-*
“*ment*, sufficient to bring up the children, and
“make the remainder of the mother’s days happy;
“for, my dear, I never do any thing by halves—
“Good God, child! what is the matter with you?
“what do you weep so for?”

“*Nothing, dear madam (replied the lady) nothing;*
“*I only sympathize in the distress of the poor widow.*”
—“But my dear, that distress is now at an end.”—

“O madam, let me carry her the blessing, let me not de-
“lay her happiness a moment! who knows but her heart

“ *is this minute bursting with the dreadful apprehensions of*
 “ *want for herself and her dear infant !* ” — “ With all
 “ my heart, madam ; but you will please to order a
 “ chair to be called to carry me home, when you go ;
 “ for I cannot stay *here* alone. ” — “ *Dear madam, for-*
 “ *give my rudeness ; I beg your pardon, pray forgive me :*
 “ *the distress of the widow put every thing out of my head ;*
 “ *indeed it did ; pray excuse me.* ” — “ Excuse you, my
 “ dear, I honour the heart that feels another’s woe ;
 “ you shall go directly ; you shall be the messenger
 “ of glad tidings to them. But, my dearest young
 “ lady, give me leave to tell you, that I fear you
 “ have not answered me sincerely ; I fear your tears
 “ flow from some other cause, than mere sympathy ;
 “ speak, my child ! does any thing affect your own
 “ heart ? can I any way be serviceable to you ? Com-
 “ mand me freely, and make me happy in serving
 “ one for whom my heart has conceived so tender an
 “ esteem ! Speak as you would to your own mother,
 “ and wrong not my friendship with a doubt. ” —
 “ *O madam, madam !* (replied the mourner, as soon
 “ as sobbing permitted utterance) *I have no mother*
 “ *to make my complaint to : I am the wretched widow*
 “ *you have described ! a widow without support, with-*
 “ *out friends, or any other hope than just in Heaven !* ”
 “ And Heaven will raise you friends, my dearest
 “ child ! Heaven has raised you a friend in me !
 “ You shall be *my* child ! I look upon you as my
 “ own ! as a gift from Heaven, from this moment !
 “ You shall leave this place this very day ! it is not fit
 “ for *my* child ! I will take a lodging for you, near
 “ myself, till *my* nephew, who is lately come to town
 “ to see me, goes home ; and then you shall live with
 “ me for ever. ”

Saying these words, she threw her arms round her
 destined victim, and wiped away the tears that flowed

down her cheeks, while a variety of passions filled her tender heart almost to bursting.

C H A P. VI.

The history of the young lady. She is critically interrupted by the arrival of an unexpected person. She is reconciled to her father, who rewards the woman of the house and resolves to punish the bawd.

“WHEN she had recovered herself a little, my mistress thus resumed her lore, “Weep not, my dearest child, all will be well. And have you any dear little infants too?”—“Oh no! my wretchedness, thank Heaven is all my own!”—But may I, my dear, ask your name, and the circumstances of your story! I would know all, that nothing may be unredressed.”——“You are all good-ness, madam! My story, alas, has few circumstances, and they are all distresses! I lost my mother while I was yet a child: my father left me in the country to the care of a governess, the wife of his chaplain, who educated me in the sentiments of piety and virtue. When I was scarce fourteen, I returned the love of her son, the most deserving and most lovely of his sex, who was two years older than I: but, young as we were, we concealed our passion, till my father obtained him a commission in the army; when, on the regiment’s being ordered to America, I yielded to his fears of losing me, and consented to a private marriage, which was soon discovered by a letter’s falling into my father’s hands, who, in his rage, turned my husband’s father, and mother, and me, out of doors, nor would ever see us more. A small vicarage afforded us a present support. My mother-in-law soon died; the suspicion of her having betrayed the confidence of my fa-

“*ther, and been instrumental in my marriage, breaking her heart ; as did the account of my husband’s death, his father’s. I then was left quite destitute ; and have since supported a wretched being by my work, which the honest woman of this house takes in for me, without the least hope of relief in this world, till your goodness has, this day, taken compassion on me.*”—“*And what is your father’s name, my dear.*”—“*That I have never yet revealed, as I would willingly hide the disgrace, my distress may be thought to him ; but with you I need not use that caution ; his name is*”—

Just at this word, the surgeon, who had been sent for to my mistress, entered, and presented a new scene.

At the first sight of this person, the young lady gave a great shriek, and swooned away. The gentleman stood a moment stupified with astonishment, when, turning hastily to my mistress, “*Is this the lady ?*” (said he) —“*Aye, and a lovely one she is*” (answered she) but help me to raise her up, when you will see her better : she has been just telling me her story, and the grief of it has overcome her ! “*it is a moving one ; and she must be our own.*”—

“*Oh, my child ! my child !*” (exclaimed he in a transport) and, spurning my mistress from her with his foot, raised her himself, and leaned her head upon his bosom, kissing her, and almost smothering her with his tears. “*Oh, my poor child ! what have you escaped ! what have you endured !*”

It is impossible to describe the situation of my mistress at this scene. She saw the error she had been guilty of, in introducing a woman to whom she was a stranger ; and was aware of the danger, with which the horror of such an interview, on such an occasion, threatened her. While, therefore, the father seemed wrapped in an extasy, that made him as insensible as his daughter, she thought it her best way to retire

from the first burst of his anger, and, forgetting her sprained ankle, was going directly away; but he perceived her intent, and calling her with a voice that nailed her to the ground; "stir not upon your life, (said he) I will have this whole mystery cleared up."

His daughter, just then, opening her eyes, and finding herself laid upon her father's bosom, love, respect, duty, fear, and joy, filled her heart with such a variety of passions, that she sunk under their weight and swooned again.

This embarrassed the father almost to distraction, till the woman of the house coming in, with her assistance she was at length recovered, for my mistress was so terrified that she did not dare to approach her.

As soon as the lady had lightened her heart by a flood of tears, she threw herself at her father's feet, unable either to look up, or speak to him. Moved with the mute eloquence of her grief, and melting in the warmth of nature, he raised her from the ground, and spoke to her in these words: "Be comforted, my child! I am, I will be your father! But tell me what has passed between you and this vile woman!"—"Oh, Sir, *is she not my best, my only friend? Has she not restored me to your love?*" "Have a care, child! she your friend! then you are lost beyond recovery indeed! She is a reproach to her sex! to human nature!"—"Oh Sir! *how can that be? did she not bring you here to me? does not that shew her virtue and compassion to my distress?*"—"Compose yourself a little, child! it is true, she brought me here; but tell me, I charge you, on what terms she told you I was to come; and how she came to interest herself in your affairs! Fear not, but speak the truth."

On this she told him the whole of her acquaintance with my mistress, and by what accident, and in what

character she imagined he had been sent for! but that, as soon as she saw *him* enter the room, she thought my mistress must have been acquainted with her story, and taken this method of introducing her to him, in hopes the surprise, and sight of her distress, might operate on his compassion.

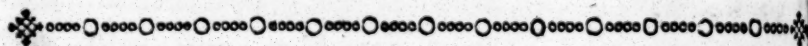
Truth forces conviction. He was satisfied with the account she gave him; and taking her again in his arms, “ I have found you again, my dear child, (said he) and I will never lose you more! Be the errors of youth, be my severity forgotten! From henceforth you are *my* child, and I will be *your* father! as to that vile wretch, know, that her whole acquaintance with you, was sought with a premeditated design of betraying you to ruin. She told me the whole, nearly as you have done; and encouraged by your distress, of which she had gotten some general hints, but ignorant who you were, she laid the scheme of this pretended accident, to get admission into your house: for she well knew where you lived; and then sent for me to a place I had appointed, that might come and see you, under the appearance of a surgeon, that if I liked you, I might have the preference of her interest in you: for so deep had she laid her scheme, that you could not have escaped her; the trial would have been too great for human fortitude! and this most execrable mystery of iniquity did she undertake for the paltry reward of 50*l.* which I must take the shame upon myself to own, I had promised her, little imagining that I was bargaining for the seduction of my own innocent child. But I see, I acknowledge the hand of Heaven in this whole affair, that has thus opened my eyes to the danger of such a licentious course of life, and made the recovery of my child the means, and the reward of my conversion!

“ Weep not, my dear ; justly may you turn your eyes with detestation from such a fiend : but I shall take care that she meets a just reward ; while you prepare to go home with me, for I will not leave you a moment in this scene of horror.”——
 “ Oh, mercy, mercy, my lord ! (cried my mistress) have mercy on me ! nor overwhelm with your anger a wretched creature, whose remorse is a load too great to bear.”——“ Away, vile wretch, (replied he, in a rage) nor dare to speak another word ! and here fellow (calling to the porter who had directed him to the house) bring me the parish constable.”

While the porter went for him, my mistress, wretched now indeed, her guilty fear magnifying her danger, stood trembling, but afraid to essay his pity with another word.

After he had walked a turn or two about the room, his daughter entered, and with her the woman of the house with her little effects, which were soon packed up ; at the sight of them his countenance softened :
 “ Well, my dear, (said he to his daughter) I see you are ready to come with me ; but I must wait a moment to do justice to the wretch who brought me hither. Plead not for her ! I would not have you ever sue to me in vain, again ; and any thing in her favour I cannot yield ! but my justice shall not be only severe, nor confined to her alone. You have said that this honest woman has been a friend to you ! she shall be rewarded. Here, good woman, is the sum of money I was to have given this vile creature for my daughter in another sense. Take it, as the reward of your honesty and kindness to her ; and call on her every year of your life for the same sum.”

The poor woman took it with a reverence, but was unable to speak her gratitude, her heart was so full, while his daughter dropped suddenly on her knees, and raising her hands and eyes to heaven, exclaimed in rapture, *O pour thy blessings, Heaven, on his head, who thus dispenses happiness on all who merit it*—As she said these words, the constable came, into whose charge his lordship gave my mistress, to be taken to a justice of the peace, whether he appointed to follow her; and then handed his daughter into a coach, in which he took her directly home.



CHAP. VII.

The address of CHRYSALE's mistress, and civility of a constable. She arrives at the justice's, and is sifted and softened by his clerk, and terrified by his worship. CHRYSALE changes his service.

AS soon as this happy couple were gone, my mistress recovered her spirits, and smiled with contempt, at the danger she had often gone through before, without harm. “And so (says she) master constable, I am given in charge to you! and for what, pray? But I am no such novice, as to yield myself a prisoner, till I see proper authority to hold me; therefore, Sir, I shall wish you a good morning: if you please, you may go tell his lordship, that I was not at leisure to wait for him, at the justice's; and, because you may be dry after your walk, here is a crown to drink my health.” “I thank you, mistress (replied the magistrate, taking the money) but, in the mean time, you must come! I am sorry I cannot let you go.”—*Cannot*

let me go! pray, Sir, where is your authority to keep me?—"Here mistress! (producing his staff.)—" *But your warrant?*—"Oh! as for that, I'll make bold to do without one at this time, and take you to the justice on my own authority, and his lordship's request; and so, mistress, you had better come along, for I am in haste: you may have a coach if you please."—"Aye, so I will, to carry me home! and here's something for you to pay the coachman (putting a guinea into his hand.)"—"'Tis very well, mistress, I will see you safe home, to be sure, if you desire it, and the justice gives you leave; for to him we must go directly."—"Then give me my money; and be assured you shall answer for this false imprisonment."—"Your money mistress! why, aye! so I will, if I do not earn it."—"Then let me go home this moment."—"No, no, mistress! that I can not do, till you have been to visit his worship: and then I will see you safe home, if he gives me leave, and drink your health into the bargain; and that was what you gave me the money for: come, come, mistress! one of your trade should know better things, than to ask for money back again! Have I not shewed you all the civility in my power? Do you think I would stand preaching with you here this hour for nothing! come along the coach is at the door."

I saw you were surpris'd at the address and turn of expression in my mistress's conversation with this young lady, before the arrival of her father, as above her sphere; but nature had given her a capacity equal to any thing, and her intercourse with the polite world had gained her an ease of behaviour, and elegance of expression, that made every condition of life seem natural to her. As to the story of the family, whom she was going to relieve, she had actually prepared one of her confederates to have acted that part,

so that the lord might justly say, her design was laid so well, that it was next to impossible for her to miss of success. For, by this deceit, she would have gained the young lady's confidence, to receive favours from her, and, when she had her in her debt, she thought she could make her own terms.

As soon as my mistress and her conductor were come into the antechamber of justice, the clerk, recognizing her, addressed her thus: "Good-morrow, mistress—Pray what has got us the favour of your company? You have been so great a stranger of late, that I was beginning to think we had lost you."—Pray, Sir, (said she) let me speak a word with you in the next room."—On which he ordered her to be shewn in, and only waited to ask the constable, by whom and for what she was sent there, who was able to give him no other answer, than that the lord had ordered him to bring her, and said he would follow himself directly.

Having got this *full* information, the clerk came into the room to my mistress, and told her, with a look of importance and concern, that he was sorry to see her on so bad an account—"So bad an account, Sir? (said she) why! pray what do you think I am brought here for? nothing in this world! they can charge me with nothing but intention; and I hope that is not punishable by law!"—"I hope it will appear so (replied he) but (shrugging up his shoulders) my lord has sent a message that has another appearance!"—"And pray, Sir, what does my lord charge me with?"—"You'll excuse my revealing the secrets of a privy-counsellor! he will be here too soon, I am afraid, to tell you himself."

Veried as my mistress was in all the wiles of man, the look and manner of his saying these words alarmed her conscious fears. "Pray, Sir, (said she) what has his lordship said? or, if you do not think proper

"to tell me that, at least you can direct me how to
 "make the best defence against his designs! I shall not
 "be ungrateful! you know I never was." — "Why
 "that's true, madam (replied he) and indeed I
 "should take great pleasure in serving you, and get-
 "ting you out of this *hole*, but my lord, you know is
 "a great man, and can, in a manner, do what he
 "pleases with poor people." — "Pray, Sir, *can I speak*
 "*a word to the justice?*" — "I fear he is engaged just
 "now; besides, it is so long since he has seen or heard
 "from you, that I believe you must expect but little
 "favour from him." — "Why that is the very thing I
 "would speak to him about; and believe me it was my
 "business out so early this morning, till I was delayed by
 "this unlucky accident." — "As for that matter, you
 "know you may say any thing to me, as well as to
 "him, and I can tell him." — "That is true, why all
 "I have to say to him, at present, is to beg his acceptance
 "of these five guineas for his past favours, and his advice
 "how to get out of this scrape; and pray do you take these
 "three for your trouble. I am sorry I have no more to
 "offer, but really the times are very bad, and little or no
 "money stirring among the gentlemen; beside, all my ladies
 "have been very unlucky of late, and the doctor, you know,
 "must be always paid in hand." — "I am sorry things
 "go so badly with you; I will speak to the justice,
 "and let you know what he says, and you may de-
 "pend on my friendship and interest at all times;
 "though I am afraid this is a very bad affair. I will
 "go to him directly and return to you as soon as pos-
 "sible."

I here left my mistress to her meditations, having
 been one of the pieces she had given to the clerk.
 You may imagine I was glad to leave such a service,
 though I could not promise myself much pleasure, be-
 side the variety, in the exchange, from what I had al-
 ready seen of that, which I was entering into.

The justice was in his office, busied in examining the informations of some of his people, who had made some lucky *bids* the evening before. On a wink from his clerk, they were all ordered to withdraw when reaching *me*, and four more of my brethren to his worship; “here, Sir (said he) five guineas from Mrs.——.”—“So, then, (replied he) *she has thought proper to come at last.*”—“To come, no,”—“no, Sir! she has been brought, or else, I believe you would have hardly seen her.”—“*The ungrateful jade: but what is the matter now?*”—“I really cannot well tell; nor does the constable know any more, than that my lord —— ordered him to bring her, and said that he should follow him self.”—“My lord? then I must be ready to receive him properly: He is a great man: quick! reach me my green velvet cap, red slippers, and new gown, and open half a score of those books, the largest of them and lay them on that great table, as if I had been referring.”—“There! now I look like a justice! and bid those gentry I was speaking to, go back-wards till my lord is gone.”—“He must not see such faces; they might prejudice him against us; and he is a great man: so! now I’ll open the NEW JUSTICE, and his lordship may come as soon as he pleases.”

Just as all things were thus prepared for his lordship’s reception, in proper formality, a servant brought a note from him, to let his worship know, he could not come himself that morning, but desired he would take proper care of the woman he had ordered to be taken before him, who kept a house of bad fame in such a street, where, upon the least inquiry, he could not fail to find sufficient matter against her, from her neighbours.

Though his lordship’s not coming was a disappointment to his worship, after the preparations he had made to receive him; and baulked him of an impor-

tant advertisement for the next morning; yet the general wording of his note gave him some consolation, as it might seem to authorize any measures he might please to take, to squeeze the criminal before him.—“ This may do (said he to his clerk) this may do something: but we must proceed with caution, for Mrs.—is an old *band*: let her be called in; I'll *soften* her a little first, and then you may work upon her after as you please.”

As soon as she came in, his worship accosted her thus:—“ So, mistress; this is a fine affair; I knew what your doings would come to, at last; I have often warned you; but you would take no advice; and now you see the consequence!—Do, make her *mittimus*! I must wait upon his lordship; and cannot go till she is committed!”—“ *Committed!* dear your worship, for what must I be committed? I have done nothing:”—“ No! to be sure, you have done nothing! his lordship would prosecute you so severely for nothing: Look at this letter! do you know his hand-writing? His lordship has here given me an account of the whole affair, and desired that I would proceed against you, with the utmost rigour of the law! I have already sent to search your house.”

This word completed the terrors, into which the sight of his lordship's well-known hand had thrown her, and deprived her of all resolution and presence of mind. She burst into tears, and throwing herself on her knees, “ Oh, good your worship! dear Mr. Clerk (said she) advise me: assist me to get over this misfortune! here is my watch; it cost 50 *l.* at a pawn-broker's but a month ago; it is a repeater! take it, Mr. Justice! Mr. Clerk, here are my rings! they are the only valuable things I have: take them, and help me out at this dead lift: send, and stop the people from going into my

" poor house ; I shall be *blown up* ! the gentlemen
 " will all desert me : I shall be ruined, just when I
 " have brought things to a little bearing : help me
 " but this once, and I never will give you cause to
 " complain of me again : I will always be punctual
 " to my promise."



CHAP. VIII.

She is discharged on proper bail. The labours of CHRYSALE's new master, in the service of the public, with some of the various mysteries of his office.

THE work was now done, and a wink having settled the *cue* between the justice and his clerk, the latter began thus : " If I may presume to advise your worship, though this is a very bad affair to be sure, yet as it is not quite felony, *by the statute*, I am humbly of opinion, that if bail could be got"—" *Dear Mr. Clerk, I am obliged to you.*"—" But then consider, my Lord is a great man."—" That is true, please your worship ; but the law is greater than any man, and the law is very tender of the liberty of the subject, and says expressly *in the statute, In favore libertatis*, that no person shall be confined that can get bail ; and beside, who knows, if she was at liberty, but she might find means to be reconciled to his lordship and so all would be well."—" *Dear Mr. Clerk that is true ; I could easily be reconciled to him ; I know how to gain his favour, when his anger is cooled.*"—" Why, Mrs. if you are quite sure of that, I believe we may venture to bail you : but where are your friends ?"—" *Dear your worship, I have no friends ; I have nothing to make friends with ; I throw myself upon you, gentle-*

"men!"—"Why really this is a nice case; but, if you'll step into the next room, we will consider what can be done for you."—"Ob! but send and stop the men that went to my house!"—"Never fear, they were not to go without further orders."

When she was gone out, "Well (said the justice) this has been a good *hit*, it makes up for the bad week: but cannot you guess what this matter is?"—"Not a word of it (replied the clerk) she has not dropped a syllable herself, that could let me the least into it, and I would not discover my ignorance by asking her any questions. But I suppose it is only some trick she has played my lord about a girl, for you know she has often told us, that he was one of her best customers, and boasted of his protection; and if it is no more than that, as I imagine, he will think no more of it, and so the best way is to let her go, for indeed we cannot keep her if we would; though to keep up the form, for fear she should *smell* us out, she must have some bail: and therefore I'll go and fill a bond, and make a couple of our people put on their BAILING CLOATHS, and come and sign with her, though I do not think she has money left to pay for the bond, or make the fellows drink: but she has done pretty well already, that is the truth."

Saying this, he went out, (and in a little time returned with my late mistress, and two of the fellows, the shabbiness of whose appearance had made his worship order them out of the lord's sight just before, now dressed out like reputable house-keepers, who gravely signed with my mistress, without ever asking what; and upon her returning a negative shrug, to a wink from the clerk, went out without a word.

The business was now over, and my late mistress dismissed to follow her occupation, and make up, by double diligence, for the misfortunes of that morning.

only with an assurance to the clerk, that she would remember his kindness, and be *punctual* for the future.

I was now entered into a service, where I had an opportunity of seeing into the whole mystery of justice: but you must not expect that I should reveal all the secrets of so venerable a trade: though I may give a few general hints for your information, in so abstruse and intricate a science.

The affair of my late mistress was the last of that morning; my worshipful master putting *me* into his purse, and going directly to dinner, which had waited for him some time. But, though his fare was good, his care for the public would not permit him to make long meals, or debauch away his time. After a short refreshment of only two hours, he returned to his office where he reassumed his labours, in all the various branches of his extensive employment.—

The first thing he looked into was the *informations*, which the affair of my mistress had interrupted in the morning, as I told you before: when calling his people, one after another, before him, he went through them regularly, in this manner: “*John Gibbet*, you here inform me that you have found out the person who took the gentleman’s hat, in the quarrel in *Chelsea* fields, last *Sunday* evening, which you think to make a robbery of: let me hear the circumstances of that affair, for you are so keen a blood-hound, when you get upon any scent, that you are for making every thing robbery be the case what it will.”

“Please your worship (replied *Gibbet*, turning the *quid* in his cheek, and squirting out the juice) I do all things for the best, and that you know; and that I have brought many things to bear, which no body else would undertake, as witnesses that affair on *Shuter’s bill*, that got you so much

"credit, and money too."—"Why, that's true, JOHN; but then YOU should remember also the cursed scrape you brought me into about the young fellow who wrote the threatening letters to the farmer, about burning his barns; you undertook to prove that too: but know how you left me in the lurch, after I had gone such lengths, as had like to have ruined me. Plain swearing will not always do, though never so home; you should remember that: you should attend to circumstances also: but, as to this affair, let me hear what you can make of it."

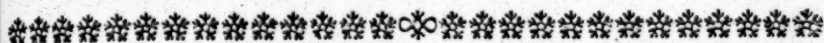
"Your worship must know, that I, and two or three more of our people, having nothing to do, shammed a quarrel, in which a gentleman, who was coming by, lost his hat. It was a large hat, with a very broad gold lace, such as your foreigners wear; it was I that shoved off the hat, and seeing a shabby idle-looking young fellow standing by, without one, I took it up, and asking him if it was his, reached it to him, and saw him make off with it directly. Now if this is not a plain robbery, I do not know what is! a fellow runs away with a gentleman's hat, who advertises it, with a reward for taking the thief, whom he will prosecute! now I have found out the fellow's haunts, for indeed I dogged him, and will have himself whenever you please, and can clench the prosecution, by swearing that I saw him carry off the hat; and you know I need say no more, nor take any notice who gave it him."

"Why, JOHN, there may be something in this affair. I like it very well, JOHN! and so, clerk, you may enter him on the list for next sessions. This affair has a good look; nor is there any thing unjust in it; for, though you gave him the hat, as he knew it was not his own, and yet carried it off, he is guilty of the theft, and that is the same as robbery, in justice, though it may not

"in law; and justice is the thing to go by, with a safe con-
science. And so you may go, JOHN, I will let you know
when it is proper to have him taken up, only have an
eye to him, for fear any one else should snap him out of
our hands—Who comes next! RICHARD SLY, you
say you have found out the knot of young fellows that
have begun to infest the streets for some nights past,"
 —"Aye, please your worship (says Sly, shrugging
 up his shoulders, and grinning) I have found them
 out, to be sure; and well I might! for it was I
 first set them on them on the lay."—"How, RICH-
 ARD! take care of what you say."—"Oh, your wor-
 ship, never fear Dick Sly for a slippery trick! I
 know what I say very well: I have known for some
 time that these youths have been playing a small
 game, cribbing from the till, and building sconces,
 and such like tricks, that there was no taking hold
 of; I therefore thought it would be right to bring
 them to justice, at any rate, and so laid the plan
 of this gang, and entered them into the business
 myself, and now, whenever you have a mind to
 nub them, you need only take me up, and I can
 peach them all, which will be no bad affair, there
 are so many of them."—"Why that is true, RICH-
 ARD; but they have done nothing yet that deserves so se-
 vere a remedy as the gallows! therefore let them alone;
 perhaps they may mend: or if they do not, it will be
 time enough to take them up when they deserve it more
 than now. To be sure, your peaching them, who first
 drew them in, is not very just; but then the law will
 support you in it, and, while a man has the law on his
 side, he may laugh at the gallows. And so, RICHARD,
 have a good look till these youths are ripe for TYBURN,
 and then your harvest will come!"

It would be endless to go through this whole busi-
 ness particularly. Be it sufficient to say, that there
 was no breach of the laws, which some of his people

did not give him an information of, and almost all, as accomplices, while his whole care was to consider which could turn most to his advantage, in the conviction, and to settle the evidence against them, so as it might be sure not to miscarry.



CHAP IX.

An highwayman improperly taken, saves his life by losing his reason. Judicial sagacity and eloquence, triumphant over common sense, and matter of fact. This mystery explained.

WHILE he was in the midst of this business, he was surprised with the news of an highwayman, that moment brought in by a gentleman who had taken him, in the very attempt of robbing him on Turnham Green. This threw the whole house into an uproar.—“ *An highwayman taken, and by the very party!*” (exclaimed the justice in an agony of rage and vexation) *This is most unfortunate; there is 40 l. dead loss, besides the shame of it; how shall I support my consequence, if other people can serve the public without my assistance?*

“ I wonder who it can be (said the clerk) I suppose the man on the white mare, or the mask, from Putney Common! but, whoever it is, something must be done! *He* must be saved this time to save *our* credit, and we may have him the next, ourselves! Here they come: do you keep the gentleman in discourse while I speak to the prisoner, and see how he can *come down*. I shall readily give you your *cue*.”

Just then entered the gentleman with his prisoner, whom they directly knew to be an old offender, who had long baffled their pursuit: a circumstance, that

heightened the vexation of his being taken by another, and was not a little favourable to him at this time.

His worship received the gentleman most politely, and desired him to sit down a moment, till he should finish a letter he was writing to *the secretary of state*, and then he would attend to his business, ordering the prisoner to be removed into another room for the mean time.

He then sat himself down to write, with great deliberation, and had *just finished*, when his clerk came to deliver him a letter *from the lord mayor*, which he read over attentively, and, saying it was very well, he then turned to the gentleman, and, asking his pardon for making him wait so long, ordered the prisoner to be brought in.

The highwayman appeared now a quite different person from what he did, when he was in the room a few minutes before; his looks, which were then clouded with the gloom of listless dejection, and despair, being inflamed into the fiercest agitations of phrenzy.

The gentleman shewed his surprize at this change, as did his worship his uneasiness for his own safety, from the fury of so outrageous a madman. As soon as he was *secured*, the justice addressing himself, with the height of judicial solemnity, to the prosecutor, “Pray, Sir, (said he) will you please to inform me what you have to alledge against this unhappy person?”—“Sir, (replied the gentleman) all I have to say, is, that he stopped me this afternoon upon *Turnham-Green*, and, presenting a pistol at me, bid me deliver my money, but being well armed, and having more about me than I chose to lose, instead of my purse, I drew a pistol too, and, his missing fire, I grappled with, and took

“ him on the spot, and from thence brought him directly here : that is all I have to say, Sir !”

“ *And pray, Sir, what did he say when you had taken him ?*”—“ Not a word, Sir, nor has he spoke a syllable since ; nor answered any one question he has been asked.”——“ *Aye, 'tis so, poor gentleman, it is so !—And pray, Sir, did he make much resistance when you took him ?*”—“ the utmost he was able ; but being better mounted, and much stronger than he, I soon overpowered him, tho' not without great danger, for, after I had him down, he drew his knife, and very narrowly missed plunging it into my body ! You see what a cut he made in my coat and waistcoat !”—“ *Aye, poor man, madness is always desperate : I fear, Sir, you have been too hasty in this affair.*”—“ How, Sir, too hasty, to take a man in the very action of highway robbery ? I do not understand you, Sir !”

“ Sir, I mean that this person is no robber, but an unhappy gentleman of family and fortune, who has been for some time out of his mind : I have been applied to by his relation more than once, to try to have him apprehended, that he might be confined ; and, now he is secured, they will take proper care of him, that he shall not frighten any body for the future ; for I am satisfied, Sir, that was all he meant ; and that he would not have taken your money, had you offered it to him : I suppose you searched him, when you had overpowered him, poor man, as you justly termed it ! Pray, Sir, did you find any thing upon him, to make you think he was an highway-man ? Any watches ! jewels ! or different purses of money ? or more money than you might think it probable a person of his appearance might commonly carry about him ?”

“ No really, Sir, I did not find any thing like what you mention ! this purse, which seems to have about thirty or forty guineas in it, (for I have not

“reckoned them) was the only thing in all his pockets,
 “except the knife which he drew on me: his pistols
 “were openly in his saddle, as gentlemen commonly
 “wear them.”

“*Very well, and does his present behaviour and whole
 “conduct in this affair convince you, that the unhappy man
 “could have no felonious intent, in his mad attack upon
 “you? for men, mad as he is, have no intention at all;
 “and without a felonious intent, there can be no robbery:
 “but, I presume, you may understand something of the law
 “yourself, Sir?”*

“No indeed, Sir, I cannot say I know any more
 “law, than just not to wrong any person, nor let
 “them wrong me, if I can help it, as far as common
 “sense will direct me: I thank God, I have spent
 “my days quietly in the country, and never had a
 “dispute with any man in my life.”

“*Common sense, dear Sir! common sense is a blind
 “guide in matters of law! law and common sense are
 “quite different things: but, as I was saying, Sir, where
 “there is no felonious intent, there can be no felony; now
 “robbery is punished only because it is felony, for so the
 “indictment must be laid; FELONICE, Sir, FELONICE,
 “or it will not do! The indictment will be quashed with-
 “out that word; and who can charge a man with a felo-
 “nious intent, who is disordered in mind, and can have
 “no intention at all? ’Tis true, the appearance was bad,
 “and sufficiently terrifying, to authorize your apprehending
 “him; but, as you suffered neither loss nor hurt, I can-
 “not suppose, that a gentleman of your humane appearance
 “would desire to add to the misery of his present unhappy
 “condition, that of imprisonment till the next sessions,
 “when he must be acquitted of course, as that would
 “certainly make his madness for ever incurable;—What-
 “ever expence you have been at in bringing him here, I
 “will take upon me to reimburse you out of the money in
 “his purse, beside what gratification you please to re-*

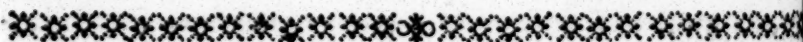
“quire for your own time and trouble! This, Sir, is
 “what I would recommend to you, as a christian and a
 “gentleman, as you appear to be: but, if you are of ano-
 “ther opinion, you must only swear to your information,
 “and enter into a recognizance of prosecution, while I sign
 “his MITTIMUS, and send word to his friends, who are
 “people of condition.”

“Indeed, Sir, you judge very rightly of me; I
 “would not aggravate the distress of any human be-
 “ing! If you know the unhappy man, and that he
 “is under so severe an affliction, as the loss of rea-
 “son I have nothing farther to say, than that I am
 “sorry for his misfortune, and would not for the
 “world be the cause of heightening it, as I had no
 “motive for apprehending him, but the duty which
 “I and every member owe the public. I thank Hea-
 “ven for my own escape from him, and do not desire
 “to make any advantage of it. As to the people who
 “assisted me in bringing him hither, they are still
 “unpaid, and you know best how to deal with them;
 “so I leave the whole affair to you, and am your
 “humble servant.”

I have not interrupted this account with any notice
 of the behaviour of the criminal, as it consisted only
 of the most outrageous imitation of madness, with im-
 precations and blasphemies too horrid for repetition.

As soon as the gentleman was gone, and the room
 cleared of all, but the justice, his clerk, and the *mad*
man, who was left bound to keep up the farce, his
 worship thus addressed him: “So, Sir, you thought
 “to reign for ever; but you see what your feats
 “have come to! I suppose you are surprised at the
 “pains I have taken to bring you through this af-
 “fair!”——“Not at all, Sir, (replied the criminal)
 “the bank-note for 200*l.* which I had concealed in
 “the sleeve of my coat, and gave your clerk.”——
 “How, Sir, (said the justice in a rage) do you pre-

“tend to say it was upon any such account? But you
 “judge of others by yourself. However, I shall not
 “stand to argue the matter with you now; you have
 “escaped for this time, and may be glad of it! but
 “take care for the future! your luck may not always
 “be so good.”——“Will your worship please to order
 “your people to return me my horse and arms? and I hope
 “you will give me my purse; for life without something to
 “support it is no great obligation.”——What, Sir! do
 “you pretend to capitulate? Your horse you shall
 “have, not that you have any right to expect him,
 “but because it would not be proper to keep him
 “after the representation that imposed upon the fool
 “who took you; and here are half a score guineas to
 “carry you to some place where you are not known,
 “and to maintain you till you can get into some honest
 “way of earning your bread. The rest is little
 “enough to give the people instead of your horse,
 “and to stop their mouths. You may stay here till
 “the croud is dispersed, when you may go where you
 “please.”——As there was no remedy, the criminal
 was forced to submit; nor indeed did he seem much
 dissatisfied at the heaviness of his composition.



C H A P. X.

*An instance of his worship's exemplary justice on a shop-lifter
 The unfashionable compassion and generosity of a sailor.
 A dispute about superiority of skill between his worship
 and his clerk, opens new mysteries in the profession.*

IT was now pretty late, and my master was just re-
 tiring to supper, pleased with having made so good
 a day, when he was stopped by more business. A
 woman who kept a chandler's shop in the next street,

had dragged before him one of her poor neighbours, whom she had caught in the very fact of stealing a pound of cheese off her counter, as she was reaching a two-penny loaf from the shelf; a crime that was heightened by ingratitude too, as she was giving her the loaf on trust; the thief having owed to her, that she had not a farthing in the world to pay for it, nor a morsel to give her three small children, who had been fasting the whole day.

Enraged at the heinousness of the crime, and at being kept from supper while the chickens and asparagus were cooling on the table, his worship, knitting his brows, and putting on all the magistrate, asked the trembling wretch, with a voice that pierced her soul, —“ What she had to say for herself, whether she was “ guilty of the crime laid to her charge, or not——” The poor creature, almost dead with wretchedness, want, and fear, threw herself at his feet, and pouring out a flood of tears, that for some moments choaked her utterance, “ O mercy! mercy! (said “ she) for the love of the sweet *Jesus* have mercy on “ a poor wretch, whom want alone compelled to “ this first offence, to save the lives of three poor “ infants, who are this moment perishing with hunger. Oh! send and prove the truth of what I say; “ send and learn their misery, and it will move you “ to relieve them, and then I care not what becomes “ of me.”——“ *Very fine, truly! if we admit such excuses for shop-lifting, there will be enough ready to plead “ them. Here, make her mittimus; she confesses the fact; “ as for her brats, bastards too, I suppose, let them be “ sent to the work-house.*”——“ Oh the poor creatures! “ they are not bastards; and they have no parish to “ be sent to. My husband is a sailor, who was pressed on board a man of war six years ago, and has “ been in the *West Indies* ever since, till this summer, “ when the ship was ordered home to be laid up.

" Poor soul ! he thought he should be paid off, and
 " so wrote me word to *Cork*, to come to him, for he
 " meant to go and settle in *Scotland*, his own country
 " but the moment he came to *Portsmouth*, he was
 " turned over into another ship, without getting
 " shilling of his six years wages or prize-money, and
 " sent away directly to *America*; so that, after spending
 " every penny I had in the world, to come to him
 " from *Ireland*, as he desired, I am left here with my
 " poor children, to starve in a strange place, where
 " no-body has any compassion on me, though my
 " husband wrote me word that he had above 300 l.
 " due to him for wages and prize-money; here is
 " his letter ! I never go without it ? it is all the comfort
 " I have in my distress."

" Aye, I thought so ! I thought you were one of those
 " Irish thieves that come to rob us, and cut our throats ;
 " but I shall take care of you ! I shall make you wish you
 " continued eating potatoes at home. I wish I could provide
 " wide as well for every one of your country ! we shall
 " never be well, till we have hanged you all." — " Oh
 " good your worship ! I am no thief ; I never stole
 " any thing before. And this woman who has brought
 " me before you, knows the truth of every thing I
 " have told your worship ; and that I have always
 " paid her honestly while I had a penny in the world,
 " for I have dealt with her ever since I came to London ;
 " but hunger and the cries of three starving
 " children, forced me to this ! Oh, my children,
 " my children !" — " Peace, woman ! all you can
 " say signifies nothing ; you were taken in the fact,
 " and to Newgate you shall go directly. And, as for
 " your brats, it is better for them to die of hunger
 " now, than to live to be hanged with their mother."
 " ther." —

By this time the *mittimus* was ready, which he signed
 without the least hesitation or pity, and then hurried

ried away to his supper, having almost fretted his bowels out to think it was spoiled by waiting so long.

But though the justice's compassion could not be moved by such a *poor* wretch, his clerk was not so inexorable, but yielded to the persuasion of an honest *Tar*, who, seeing a croud at the door, had given licence to go in and see the *fun*; and for two guineas, which barely paid the fee, ventured to make up the affair and let her go about her business, *though he did not know the consequence, if it should come to his worship's knowledge*—*Jack* took no notice of what he said, but taking the poor creature, who was just sinking under the agitations of fear, joy, and gratitude, by the hand, “Chear away, sister (said he) chear away; we’ll bring up all this lee-way next trip. Damn my eyes and limbs, if I’ll see a brother seaman’s family at short allowance, while I have a shilling! come, heave a-head; I’ll rig and victual you and your children, against your husband comes, to man you for a voyage home. I’ll swing my hammock in the next birth, and you shall cook the kettle, while I stay a-shore.”—Saying which words he led her off in triumph.—This the clerk told his worship, when he came in to supper, after giving him one of the guineas, as his share of the composition.

I now thought the business of the day over, and was preparing to take a view of my new master’s heart, while he and his clerk were enjoying their success over an hearty bottle. But I was prevented by an accident, which disturbed for a while and had like to have entirely broken off this harmony between them: a dispute, like those between all conquerors, arising about the division of the spoil, and the merit of the acquisition of it.

“This will do (said his worship, clapping his hands a kimbo, after a full glass) this will do! what betwixt the bawd in the morning, and the highway-

“ man in the afternoon, we have made a noble day
 “ of it ! But what have you ordered about that fellow
 “ I hope you have taken care that we may have him
 “ ourselves next.” Never fear (replied the clerk)
 “ have done for him. I have sent people to lay all
 “ the roads he can go, from the inn where he ordered
 “ his horse ; and *Plausible Tom* is fixed there, to scrape
 “ an acquaintance with him, so that he cannot e
 “ scape.”

“ *Aye, let Tom alone to manage him ; many a cunning*
 “ *fellow's heart has that Tom crept into, till he has wheed-*
 “ *led him to Tyburn ! Not a lawyer of them all has a*
 “ *smoother tongue. But did not I improve the hint of the*
 “ *madness well ? how quietly the gudgeon swallowed it*
 “ *If I were to set about it, I believe in my soul I could*
 “ *have persuaded him out of his own senses, and made him*
 “ *think himself mad, as well as the highwayman ! ha !*
 “ *ha ! ha ! Though you were not quite clear enough in*
 “ *your note ; you should have told me all the particulars ;*
 “ *was often at a loss ; but, upon the whole, I think I did*
 “ *pretty well, pretty well I think !*”

“ Why, aye, you did so manage it pretty well
 “ when I had given you the *cue*, and so might any
 “ one have done. But how would you have contrived
 “ to bring him off, if I had not made that hit !”—
 “ *How ?—why easily enough !—I would have—But*
 “ *what have you done with the bank note ? let me see*
 “ *that !*”—“ The note ! it is safe enough. But you
 “ do not tell me, how you would have managed to
 “ have earn'd it ; I think you should do that before
 “ you ask for it,”—“ *How I would have earned it*
 “ *why pray, good Sir, do you know whom you talk to in*
 “ *this manner ?*”—“ Whom I talk to !—I talk to the
 “ worshipful justice——, whose betters I have talked
 “ to before now ; and who would not have asked me
 “ that question some years ago, when he applied to
 “ me to instruct him in the business of his office !”—

Insolence ! instruct me ! I'll make you know, Sir, that I understand my business, without your instruction ! I'll take another clerk to-morrow."—"With all my heart, good master justice ! with all my heart ; and see who will be the loser by that. If you do not know it yet, you will soon see then, whether the business comes to the justice or his clerk ; for I give you notice, that I shall take all *the people* with me ; you shall have the credit of making up a new set for yourself, I assure you."—" *Very fine ! very fine treatment this !*—Why do you deserve it then, Sir, if you do not like it ? I say very fine treatment too ! that you should take upon you to undervalue my skill, and assume the credit of it to yourself ; you, whom I first taught, and still support in your office, in despite of all your blunders !—As for the bank note, here it is, and here it shall be, till we have settled the accounts of the last sessions when you were so clever upon me, sending me, on on a fool's errand, out of the way, while you took up the reward. Perhaps you thought I did not see through your design, or that I was afraid to speak of it, but you were quite mistaken ; I only waited till the remedy should come into my own hands, and, now it has, be assured I shall make use of it whatever you may think, Sir ! and farther let me tell you, that if you say much more, I will think of parting in earnest, if you do not think proper to come to a new agreement : for I see no reason why you should carry off two thirds of the profit, only because you are *justice* indeed, though I do all the business !"



C H A P. XI.

The breach happily made up by the arrival of company. The evening concluded in character. His worship goes next morning to hear a charity-sermon, and from thence to eat a charity feast, where CHRYSAI enters into a new service. Some account of the nature of a charity feast.

MATTERS were now at such an height, that I every minute expected they would have proceeded from words to blows, when a pull at the bell brought them both to themselves in an instant.

“Hah! that is true! this is quarter night (said the justice) and here the ladies are come! Give me your hand: why should we fall out about our skill while the business goes on well? here’s my service to you; and let there be no more of it.”—

“With all my heart (replied the clerk) but why will you urge me on thus, when you know that I cannot bear to have my skill called in question?”—

By this time the ladies entered, whom I directly saw to be the *commode* matrons, and compliant fair of his district, who came daily to compound with him for the breach of those laws he was appointed to support.

The very mention of this scene sufficiently explained the nature of it, and makes a more particular description unnecessary. All parties behaved properly on the occasion. *They* paid their subsidies, for which he returned them very wholesome advice, to behave with diligence and discretion in their professions; and especially those who lived in his neighbourhood, he

cautioned to avoid all riots, and causes of offence, which might bring his connivance and protection into suspicion; then relaxing from the severity of his morals, he gave up the rest of the night, and a good part of the next morning, to mirth and good-fellowship, in the company of a few of his particular favourites, and best costumers of this motley set, having dismissed the rest to the pursuit of their occupations.

The business of the day, and pleasures of the night had so far exhausted his spirits, that nature required a long pause: accordingly, no business coming in to disturb him (for such was his vigilance in his office, and care for the public, that every thing gave way to that) he made a late morning, not waking till he was called to attend a sermon and dinner, which were to be that day for the benefit of a charity, to which he was a constant benefactor; as indeed his public spirit made him, to all that were already established, and prompted him to strike out many new: in which as the author of them, he hoped to have the management, while novelty should make it the fashion to support them.

But in this he was always disappointed. For though, in the multitude of his schemes, he sometimes stumbled upon a good one, yet his head was so confused, and, his notions so wild and immethodical that before he could digest his plans into any regularity, some one else took up the hint, and ran away with the credit of the design.

At church he *edified* greatly, by a comfortable *nap*, during the sermon, which finished his refreshment, and sent him with a clear head, and keen stomach, to the feast, where every person seemed to vie, in demonstrating his attachment to the cause of their meeting, by the quantity he eat and drank.

I here changed my service once more, being given

by his worship in his subscription, and so came into the possession of a community in general, which gave me an opportunity of seeing the human heart in a more complicated view, than perhaps any other scene of its actions could afford; as there was hardly a profession, degree, or rank of life, which had not a representative in this meeting, nor a motive of action, however apparently contrary to its design, or contradictory of each other, who did not contribute its influence to the bringing them together.

While I lay in the hands of the treasurer of the charity, unassigned to any particular use, or person, I enjoyed a state of liberty something like that of living in a commonwealth, having it in my power to enter into the hearts of all the governors (who were now my owners) as I liked, and to make many observations without restraint to any particular person, time, or place.

Charity is the most amiable and most exalted of the human virtues, and that which rises to the nearest imitation of the divine. Nor can any thing be a stronger proof of the beneficence of the author of human nature, than his placing this virtue, which is the perfection of it, within the reach of every individual.

For charity is a disposition to think well of, and do well to, every other human being, without partiality, prejudice or respect, to any other motive, than this universal duty; giving of alms being no more than one, and that perhaps the very meanest effect of it.

But this extensiveness of the nature of charity is the reason of its being generally misconceived, and most erroneously confined to this effect, by minds unable to comprehend its greater excellence; and, from this mistake, have proceeded many of the extraordinary

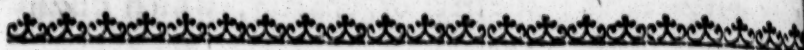
many instances of this effect of charity, which distinguishes the present age.

This is a most dangerous error : it is too like thinking to bribe heaven with the wages of hell ; and yet profanely absurd as such a notion is, daily observation shews the extensive prevalence of it.

As charity is such a refined and exalted virtue, and purely spiritual, it must appear strange to you, how it should enter into the head of man to make so gross, low, and sensual a passion, as eating, the foundation of it ! Indeed so unnatural is the thought to pure speculation, unacquainted with the perversions of life, that a charity-feast, in the literal meaning of the phrase, must be taken for a meeting of the poor, to eat the provisions supplied for them by the rich, instead of the rich meeting to gorge their own appetites.

But a little observation of the present bias of the world will solve this difficulty. Of all the *natural* appetites and passions, which possess that part of mankind, whose age has enabled them to amass money enough to give away, eating is the most universal. I say natural passions, for fraud, avarice, or ambition, or even lust, at that time of life, are not the passions of nature.

To gratify this therefore, was the most probable scheme for drawing *them* together : and, when that is sufficiently done, the full heart opens easily, and shares its abundance with the empty.



C H A P. XII.

A representation of the company. The history of one of the principal members. The modern method of bribing Heaven with the wages of Hell.

* **T**HEY had feasted, nor did their minds yet require such another banquet, when I became a member of their society ; you must not expect a particular account or description of such a scene. A few general hints must satisfy your curiosity, as I have told you on other occasions.

Let your imagination represent you a number of people, whose highest pleasure is eating, seated at a large table, covered with all the delicacies, all the rarities of the season, in a plenty that promised satiety to their keenest appetites.—But I must stop ! I see the very thought has an effect upon you, that favours too strongly of sensuality, and might, if not checked, put a stop to our conversation, by some human hankerings. Let us therefore pass over such a scene, and turn our observation to the company, as they sat, after the fragments of the feast were removed. And here it will be proper to have recourse to the expedient we made use of before, and, holding up the mirror to imagination, view the whole scene as if actually present.

Observe, then, that enormous bulk of flesh, that sits at the head of the table, with his waistcoat all unbuttoned, and gasping for breath ; the distension of his stomach having left his lungs scarce room to perform the animal functions, and fat almost choked the passages of vital air.

He is one of the principal supporters of this, and every other public charity founded on the modern method of a feast; the natural avarice of his heart outwitting itself at this instance; for as he is sure of satiating his appetites with more and better victuals and wine, at these meetings, than he could have at home, for much more than the price of the ticket, the advantage in that bargain always tempts him to go; and then the happiness of his heart, in the fullness of his stomach, opens his purse, and he subscribes with a liberality that arises almost to profusion.

But look into his heart, and read the rest of his life: the very money which he bestows with such an appearance of virtue, on this best of uses (for no error in motive or manner, must take off the merit of an action that does good) this very money (I say) has perhaps been acquired by vices the most opposite to the virtues it is applied to.

The greatest frugality, application, and skill in the mysterious business of a scrivener, have raised this person, from the most abject poverty, to affluence, above the moderation of a rational wish. But so powerful is the force of habit, that, though the cause has been long since removed, the effect still remains, and he persists to save and heap up money, by all the mean and iniquitous ways which want first suggested to him. One instance, and that not singular, in him, will give you a sufficient insight into his character.

A gentleman, whom indiscretion and indolence of temper had involved in some pecuniary distresses, had the greater misfortune, some years ago, to be recommended to this person to borrow such a sum of money, as should extricate him from his immediate difficulties, on a mortgage of his estate.

As his security was good, his business was soon

done; but the convenience of his estate to another which this person had lately purchased in his neighbourhood, and an acquaintance with the unwary easiness of his disposition, made him cast a wishful eye upon it, and form schemes for getting it absolutely into his possession.

At first he strove to tempt his indiscretion by the offer of more money to supply his pleasures; but finding that would not take, and that the sense of his former extravagances dwelt so strongly on him, as to give his mind a kind of turn to industry, did he know how to apply it, his ready genius struck out a method, that he imagined could not fail of success.

He therefore cultivated an intimacy with the gentleman, in which, upon all occasions, he affected to boast of his own success in life, and to attribute it to his having always a command of money to take the advantage of any bargain that might offer.

As this turn of conversation seemed to flow only from the fulness of his heart, and to be free from all design, it had the effect he proposed, and raised a desire in his friend, to follow a method which had been so successful with him. He therefore, one day, communicated to him a resolution, which he had formed, of selling his estate, and applying the money to business; and desired his friend's assistance to execute his design. After an appearance of surprise the scrivener testified his pleasure and approbation of his prudence, by the readiness with which he undertook to serve him.

The ease with which the first part of his scheme had succeeded, made him form further hopes, and think of getting the estate he desired, even at a cheaper rate than purchasing it.

After some time spent, as he said, in fruitless inquiries, for a purchaser, he most artfully drew his friend, to desire that he would buy it himself: at first

he seemed to hesitate, but then, as it were yielding to the impulse of his friendship, he concluded a bargain for it, on terms evidently advantageous to the seller.

All things being agreed upon, the parties met to conclude the affair, when, the writings being read over, and the money lying on the table, while the scrivener told it, the gentleman executed the deeds of conveyance, and receipt, before proper witnesses, who withdrew as soon as they had signed them.

In the mean time the scrivener continued to tell the money, till a servant entered hastily with a letter as from a lord, who was one of his best clients, and desired to see him that moment. The difficulty this threw him into was soon solved, by his friends compliance to defer his business for a few hours, as the lord's urgency would not admit the least delay. Accordingly, he put up both the deeds and money in all the apparent confusion of hurry, and went away to his lordship.

Next morning the gentleman called to receive the price of his estate, but his friend was not at home, nor to be spoken with in the afternoon, for his turn was now served, and he neither desired, nor perhaps thought it safe, to keep up any farther acquaintance with him.

As such things might happen to a man in business, the gentleman took no notice of them, but quietly swallowed the same excuses for some days successively. At length his patience began to be exhausted, and his fears alarmed at a behaviour so strange, and contrary to that height of intimacy that had been between them, even were there no business in the case——In this perplexity he went one morning, resolved not to quit the house till he should see him; and when a message to that purpose was, after long attendance complied with, upon a warm expostula-

tion, he received for answer, from his *friend*, that
 “ he had been of late too much engaged in affairs
 “ of consequence to attend compliments, and knew
 “ not any business he could have with him.”

“ Not know my business, Sir, (replied the gentle-
 “ man in astonishment) I come, Sir, for my money,
 “ and shall hereafter never trouble you more with
 “ business or compliment,”——“ *Your money, Sir!*
 “ *I do not understand you;—pray, Sir; what money do you*
 “ *you mean!*”——“ What money! the purchase mo-
 “ ney of my estate, Sir; which you were to have
 “ paid me above a week ago, when I signed the
 “ deeds of sale.”——“ *Poor gentleman; it is so! as I*
 “ *was informed, and always feared. He has lost his rea-*
 “ *son; and I should not seem much better to trust myself*
 “ *longer with a man in his condition.*”——“ Take care,
 “ Sir; this is too tender a point to be trifled with:
 “ you almost made me mad!”——“ *Aye; there it is:*
 “ *he is mad, poor man: and is even sensible of it himself!*”
 ——“ Death, Sir; do not dare to dally with me a
 “ moment longer! answer me directly! pay me my
 “ money; and not really provoke me to a madness,
 “ that may be fatal to us both.”——“ Sir, your mad-
 “ ness, or reason is nothing to me: however, I will an-
 “ swer you directly, that I owe you no money, and none
 “ will I pay you. As for the purchase money of your estate,
 “ your parting with which I see has turned your brain,
 “ when you come to yourself, you will recollect, that I
 “ paid you, when you executed the deeds of sale; or if you
 “ do not remember it, your own receipt properly witnessed,
 “ will prove it, for me, and I desire no more: and there-
 “ fore, Sir, let me have no farther trouble with you, if
 “ you do not chuse to take up your lodgings in MOORE-

FIELDS.

“ This is too much; just Heaven! this is too much:
 “ too much for human patience to endure! or wait
 “ the laws delay for remedy! I will avenge myself,

“ assert the cause of justice, and rid the groaning world of such a monster !” (exclaimed the unhappy gentleman) now really irritated into the extremity of that phrenzy which the other only wanted to impose on him, and drawing his sword, before the wretch could call for help, or take any method of defence, he plunged it through his body.

His shrieks soon alarmed his servants, who, rushing in, found him weltering in his blood, and the madman smiling, in the absence of frantic extasy, over him, and incapable of attention to any other circumstance, though some of them dragged him before a magistrate, while the rest were busied in procuring relief for their master.

The madman was committed to prison, to wait the event of the wound he had given, which Heaven, to let the measure of the scrivener’s iniquity be full, had directed to a part that was not mortal.

In a word, he recovered, though not to a sense of justice or humanity, but persisting in his iniquity, which now was sharpened by a spirit of revenge, for what he had endured, the first effort of his health was to have the unhappy sufferer confined in *Bedlam*, where he still languishes under all the horrors that attend a total loss of reason, without relief, or even compassion from his base undoer ; who this very morning, as he was stepping into his chariot, to come to this *charity-feast*, spurned from him with his foot, and refused the smallest alms to the wretched life of the ruined madman, who begs in the common streets, and was driven by misery and despair, to throw herself even at his feet to implore relief.

I see your abhorrence rise at such a monster, but now will wonder even heighten it, when I tell you that this oppressor has neither child nor kinsman, to inherit his wealth ; for he was himself a foundling, and reared at the public expence, without the know-

ledge or tenderness of a parent to soften his rugged soul, nor would the selfishness of his heart ever permit him to marry, for fear of the expence of a family; but he is this moment meditating on some ostentatious scheme of charity, to the foundation of which, he designs to dedicate the wealth which he has amassed by such villainies.



CH A P. XIII.

Continued : The history of a general almoner. His method of making charity begin at home. He converts a noted barrow, but disappoints his designs, by too great confidence in his own skill. The character of a clergyman.

MOVE your eye to the left, and view that demure looking picture of devotion, who sits there in silence, lifting up his eyes to Heaven, and sighing in spirit, at the festivity and sensual conversation round him.

Who, that can see no deeper than outward appearances, would not think that man sincere in his professions of religion and virtue? whereas in truth he is the most abandoned contemner of both; and deepens the dye of his blackest crimes by the more hardened hypocrisy, secretly living on the practice of those very vices, of which he professes the greatest abhorrence.

With all that consequence, which he assumes, in the direction of this charity, on the merit of the largeness of his subscription to it, in reality, he is but the dispenser of other people's benefactions, into whose good opinion he so insinuates himself, by his pretended piety, that they intrust their charity to his disposal, who always pays himself for his trouble,

subducting largely, from the sums confided to him. For, as real charity vaunteth not itself, they never divulge the secret, completely imposed on by his address, that never lets one half of his contributors know of the other; by which management, as the sums he gives are always made public, for example and imitation, each thinks that *he* adds most liberally to his own donation.——But this is not the only method by which he turns his piety to advantage. The access which the reputation of it gains him, into almost every family, opens him an opportunity of carrying on the deepest intrigues, and becoming a pander, for vices both natural and unnatural, which the interest of the parties concerned makes them still keep secret.——

As for the former, the mystery of that trade has been in part explained already; and the latter is too horrible for explanation. I shall therefore pass over those scenes, and conclude my account of this extraordinary personage, with one instance of his address, in finding out and managing the weak side of superstition and vice.

In the course of his love-negotiation, he had made an acquaintance with a woman who kept a public bagnio, or house of prostitution, which acquaintance mutual interest cemented into an intimacy. In this most infamous trade had this woman amassed considerable wealth, the disposal of which (after her death) took up much of her thoughts, in those moments, when the consequences of her debauched life forced her to think of dying.

As the secrets of their trade had removed every reserve from between them, she often used to consult him on this head; when he always comforted her with dissertations upon religion and virtue, *stripping* *them of the vain incumbrance of priestcraft, and bringing* *them back to their genuine principles of benevolence and charity.*

Frequent inculcation of this doctrine had the effect he designed; the matron was pleased with the thought of having all the benefit of religion, without the trouble of the practice, and immediately began to exercise her donations to public charities, which, as it was not quite so much in character for her to offer in person, while she continued her profession, and she saw no necessity, nor felt inclination to quit that, she always confided to the distribution of her spiritual guide.

Nor did his success stop here; he improved his influence on her superstition so far, that he prevailed on her to compound with heaven for the vices of her life, by bequeathing the earnings of them to its use, after her death.

For this purpose he himself drew her will, which pious application of her fortune set her conscience at ease; and she continued her usual business to the hour of her death, which happened three years after, with such care and industry, that some instance of negligence, in one of her servants administering to the pleasure of her guests, gave her such uneasiness in her last moments, that, with her dying breath, she lamented the ruin her house must come to, after she should quit the care of it, for the joys of heaven.

You must not think that his design extended no farther, than to prevail on her to make such a will; he had drawn it himself, as I have told you, and took care to word it in such a manner, as he thought should give him, under the appearance of her executor and trustee, as she designed him, a real property in her wealth; as it was immediately to come into his hands, on her death, and there was no time appointed for the fulfilling his pious intentions.

But here his sagacity disappointed itself: for neglecting to take proper advice, or afraid of making any person privy to his designs, he had committed

Such *material* errors in the *form* of the will, as gave room to learned counsel to set it aside, in favour of the heir at law, her nephew, who, from cleaning shoes under the gate-way, was enriched with at least a third part of his aunt's fortune, which remained to him, after the costs of the suit, that had been carried on for him, *in forma pauperis*, while her executor had the vexation of disappointment, aggravated by a decree to *pay all the costs*.——This was a severe stroke : but it did not break his spirit, though it obliged him to return to his former occupation of an *almoner*, which you see he pursues with that attention, which always ensures success.

I see you sink under the pain of finding the best actions debased, by springing from such motives : but be careful to avoid an error, fatally too prevalent, of concluding from the abuse, against the use of any thing that may, in its end, be conducive to good.

These instances I have given ; and I could add many more ; nor to depreciate the custom of giving to public charities, which is the noblest use of wealth, but to caution you against the dangerous error of thinking, that such giving alone, without reformation of life, and the active practice of the other virtues, can be acceptable in the sight of him, to whom it is offered, or efficacious to procure his favour ; and to shew the absurd impiety of persisting in vice, with vain hope of bribing Heaven with the wages of hell.

But to relieve your pain, behold that venerable person who sits opposite to him ; the serenity of whose looks shews the happiness of his mind. Read his heart, and you will not find one discontent or sorrow there, but what humanity imprints for the distresses of his fellow-creatures, which his beneficence, his real charity, is for ever finding methods to relieve, not only by pecuniary benefactions, though to these is devoted the far greater part of his ample fortune, but also by

his advice, instruction, and good offices, the judicious application and sincerity of which makes them very rarely fail of success.—He is a real supporter of charity, in its most extensive sense! his example giving a sanction, a seal of virtue, to every thing he appears in, which puts wicked wit out of countenance, and stops the tongue of calumny; and is (even were it alone) sufficient to counterbalance all the instances which could be brought against it. His long life which has been extended by heaven, as a blessing to mankind, has been a constant illustration of the religion he teaches; not one instance of his actions ever contracting his profession, as near as human weakness can act up to divine perfection.

Such is this clergyman! such should all clergymen be, to preserve the purity, the dignity of a function whose rules are drawn from perfection, and calculated to prepare the human for a participation of the divine nature, to accomplish which greatest end, all profession, not enforced by practice, must be ineffectual.

To mention any one instance of his good work would be doing injustice to the rest, and contradicting the desire of his heart, which, next to doing good is to conceal what he does; his actions being so far from ostentation, that to Heaven only, and the parties themselves, are they revealed; nor to these even is the hand that reaches them the blessing always known.

C H A P. XIV.

continued: The history of a bear-leader. His method of making his pupil's masters earn their money. The general consequences of close friendships between the different sexes. . He modestly offers his pupil's mother a nut almost too hard for her liquorish tooth; but she swallows it whole, to save the trouble of mumbling, and meets a just return for her untimely passion.

OPPOSITE to him, you see a man, whose rich dress and supercilious carriage give him the appearance of a superiority over all the rest of the company; but such artifices impose only upon the ignorant and vulgar; to a judicious eye they aggravate the defects they there meant to disguise; and the low-bred avaricious wretch appears doubly contemptible, through the unnatural veil of pride and munificence.

There is something so whimsically singular in the story of this person, that I will gratify your curiosity with a short sketch of it.

He was born in the lowest class of the people, in a poor village, in one of the most remote parts of the kingdom; but the delicacy of his constitution making him unfit for a life of labour, the common lot of his condition, his poor parents denied themselves almost the necessaries of life to send him to school, to qualify him for some employment better suited to his natural infirmity. The master of the school, who was a person of discernment and good-nature, soon perceived that the weakness of his body was amply made up by the abilities of his mind, and took a pleasure in giving instruction which he saw received with advantage.

Nor did he stop here; but when his pupil had made the ordinary progress of the school, he used the persuasive argument of teaching him for nothing, and even supplying him with books at his own expence to prevail upon his parents to let him pursue his studies.

When he had advanced by this assistance, considerably beyond the usual boundaries of school education, being not only critically skilled in the learned languages, but also well grounded in the principles of the liberal sciences, his kind master crowned the benefit he had conferred upon him, by recommending him warmly to a widow lady, of large fortune, to educate her only son, whom female fondness would not permit her to trust out of her sight at a public school.

In this employment he behaved himself with such circumspection and care, (for the weakness of his constitution saved him from all danger of excess, and the horrors of returning to his former poverty and distress, fixed his attention, invariably, to every possible means of advancing his fortune) that he won the confidence of his pupil's mother so far, that she ventured to send her darling son to the university in his care; and when he had finished his studies there with credit, gave him a genteel stipend, to accompany him in his travels to the different courts of Europe to compleat an education so happily begun, and enable him to make a figure in life, suitable to the affluence of his fortune.

The unbounded confidence with which this trust was committed to him, gave him sufficient opportunities of gratifying the ruling passions of his heart, vanity and avarice, as it enabled him to secrete, to his own use, as much as he pleased of his pupil's fortune, satisfied that his accounts would never be examined, and to acquire, late as it was, the ornament

tal parts of education, which his original poverty and the necessary gravity of his literary life and employment, had precluded him from.

Accordingly, as soon as he arrived in *Paris*, the first place where he designed to make any delay, he suffered himself to be prevailed upon by his pupil to remit something of the strictness of his authority, and, seemingly, winked at his plunging into all the levities and excesses of unguarded youth, that he might have the more convenient opportunity for executing his own schemes. Thus, while his abused charge threw away the time he ought to have spent in receiving profitable information and improvement, in idle expence and vicious pleasures, the prudent tutor took the advantage of his absence, to attend the masters he retained for him, and learn dancing, fencing, music, and all the other accomplishments of polite education; a conduct which he carefully observed, in all the different stages of their travels. But still his labour, as you see, was, for the most part in vain, the trust of his mean original being too strongly confirmed to be worn off by so late application, so that his awkward affectation only makes defects which would otherwise have passed unnoticed, become more visible, and exposes him to contempt and ridicule.

But eager as he was in these favourite pursuits, he did not let them divert his attention from the main point, of continuing to cultivate the good opinion and confidence of his pupil's mother, to whom he constantly wrote in such a strain of piety, and gave such pleasing accounts of her son's conduct, expatiating on his good qualities, and palliating his failings, with the tender titles of youthful levity, and the frailty of nature, (for fear she should receive information of his excesses from any other person) that she thought herself happy, in having placed him under a

man of such virtue and goodness; her opinion of which was not a little heightened by the care he took of his parents, to whom he constantly remitted, through her hands, such a portion of his stipend as enabled them to live with comfort; and with his former master he kept up a regular correspondence, informing him of every thing he saw in his travels, that he thought would be agreeable and entertaining to him, and expressing his gratitude for the friendship which had advanced him so happily in life.

When his pupil had finished his travels in this manner, they returned home, where the fond mother received them with the highest joy, her esteem for the tutor almost equalling her love for her son. But this natural affection did not long maintain the pre-eminence! Her established opinion of the understanding, learning, and virtue of the former, levelled the height from which difference of condition had made her look down upon him before, and she admitted him into all the intimacy of friendship. There is nothing more deceitful, than connections of this kind between the different sexes. Let them be formed with whatever resolutions they will, at first, nature will insensibly take the alarm, and force the execution of her most powerful laws.

This intimacy had not been long cultivated, before the lady began to see perfections in her new friend, which she had never perceived before, and to feel a pleasure in his conversation which her heart had long been a stranger to. She knew not how it was, but nothing pleased her except what he said, or did. Even her fondness for her son began to cool, and her eyes to open to faults in him, which she had always been blind to before, though he had never taken any pains to conceal them from her. This did not escape the penetration of her friend a moment, nor was his judgment at a loss how to improve it to the best ad-

antage. He immediately began to assume a timid tenderness in his looks and manner, and took every occasion of displaying the genteel accomplishments he had acquired in his travels, while her unhappy son, as if he had entered into the scheme against himself, seldom came near her, and, when he did, behaved with a careless indifference, scarce short of rudeness and insult.

Such a contrast was too striking to pass unnoticed: nor did her friend fail to aggravate the impressions of it, by doubling his assiduity and tender complaisance, whenever his former pupil withdrew, and lamenting the unhappy turn he had taken, in terms of the deepest concern, but without ever offering a word in his excuse.

This subtle conduct had the desired effect: The love of the mother was entirely diverted from her son to her friend; and, as the foolish fondness of her deceased husband, had left much the greater part of his large fortune in her power, the improvement of this change, was an object worthy of his highest attention. But still the difficulty upon both was how to open the affair; for, powerful as the different motives that urged them to bring it to a conclusion were, a sense of the impropriety of such an action, made each equally at a loss how to mention it.

But here again the evil genius of the son prevailed and he did that for them, which they knew not how to do themselves. For some of his friends, observing the intimacy between his mother and his former tutor, desired him to be upon his guard, and strive to prevent the consequences of it, by a change in his behaviour to her. Such prudent advice, if properly followed, might probably have had effect. But, instead of that, he flew immediately to his mother, and indiscreetly charged her with a design of betraying the confidence of his father, and ruining him, to gra-

tify a ridiculous passion for a mean, unworthy object and then turning to him, who happened to be present, he told him fiercely, that, if he did not that instant quit his mother's house, he would treat him as the villainy of such a design deserved, in the next place he should ever meet him, and so flung out of the room in the highest rage, leaving them staring at each other, and almost petrified with astonishment.

But a few moments restored them to themselves the affair was now revealed, and so the greatest difficulty over. "I wish" (said the tutor, as if he spoke to his former pupil, though he took care to wait till he heard him out of the house) "I wish no other person beside *me* had reason to fear your resentment; or that I had no other obstacle but that, to prevent the happiness my heart languishes for."—And then turning to the lady, as if he did not know that she had heard what he had said, "I am most unhappy, madam, (proceeded he) to find myself the cause of your being treated in this manner, and shall immediately withdraw, to prevent a repetition of it; as for me, since I am to lose the happiness of your conversation, it matters not what becomes of me!"—Saying which, he made her a most respectful bow, and, with a look of the highest tenderness and grief, seemed to prepare to leave the room.

"Hold, Sir," (exclaimed the lady, the warmth of whose resentment, at her son's behaviour, made her the more readily melt at the distress of her lover) "Hold, Sir, what are you going to do? Will you desert me in this danger and distress?"—And then softening her voice and looks into the greatest tenderness, "I thought, (continued she) I should never want a protector while my friend lived.—Nor shall you, madam," (answered he, with an appearance of warmth that banished all reserve) "My

life shall protect you from every danger and affront. But,—oh, that I had a tie to justify such an attachment to the world, which else will censure it severely.”—And then, taking her hand, he bent his knee, and pressed it to his lips.

Such an act of gallantry was not to be resisted, in the condition she was then in! she bent forward to meet him, and, laying her head upon his bosom as he rose, “ Let it be justified” (she murmured in a broken, faltering accent) “ by every sacred tie of love and truth; of honour, and religion :”—This was all he wanted! He seized her in his arms, and pressing her to his breast, sealed the contract on her trembling, withered lips.

The impatient love sick fair now thought every obstacle to her wishes removed, and therefore distantly proposed sending for a priest directly, to tie the sacred knot, and prevent any designs her undutiful son might form to disappoint her happiness. But her prudent lover was in no such haste! He now had her secure, beyond danger of retreating; but, as her person was not the only object of his desires, he wisely judged it best to refrain a few moments, from the possession of that, to secure the more solid enjoyment of her fortune; as he was not certain, but this fit of fondness might wear off, and her natural affection for her son return, when her untimely passion should be gratified. He, therefore resolved, to improve her present disposition beyond the danger of repentance, and sent for the priest directly, passing the intermediate moments, till his arrival, in the most passionate, endearing dalliance.

But, just as the blushing, bashful bride was going to approach the altar, he stopped short, as if upon a sudden thought, and turning to her, “ This, madam, secures our present happiness (said he) but how are you to be revenged upon your base, un-

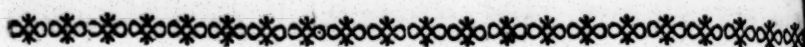
“grateful son? What certainty have I, that a return
 “of your former fondness for him, may not sacrifice
 “me to his implacable resentment? Some settlement
 “should first be made; and then anxiety and fear
 “wont damp the ardour of our joys.”——“I un-
 “derstand you not!” (answered she, in confusion and
 astonishment) “What settlement can you mean? Do
 “I not give you the possession of my fortune with my
 “self?”——“True, madam, (replied he) you do! And
 “could I be sure of having them for ever, I should
 “be satisfied! But death may rob me of you, and
 “then your fortune will descend to your ungracious
 “son, while I am thrown upon the world, destitute
 “of every means of self-defence and support.”——“And
 “can you doubt my love?” (added she, not a little
 surprised, and startled at his caution)——“I doubt
 “not! nor would I doubt it! (returned he) and
 “therefore will remove all room for doubt.”——
 “What must I settle then? (said she) how much of
 “my fortune will remove your fears, and satisfy
 “your wishes? Here! take this paper, and write
 “down your terms!”——“That is soon done!” (said
 he, and, taking the paper, directly wrote the word ALL,
 and reached it to her.)——It is not easy to describe her
 astonishment and indignation, at the assurance and un-
 reasonableness of such a demand. “What! ALL!”
 (said she, with evident emotion) “Will no less do?
 “Is nothing to be left to my disposal? This is too
 “hard!” The lover instantly perceived his ticklish
 situation! However, he was resolved to try the ut-
 most, assured that, even if her resolution held, he was
 in no danger of losing her quite. “Madam” (said
 he, throwing his arms around her, and embracing
 her tenderly) “I give you myself, and all I have;
 “and I expect the like return: I pretend not to com-
 “pare the value of the gifts: but love is delicate,
 “and will bear no abatement.”——

If the passions of youth are impetuous, those of old age are silly! The ardour of this address, with shame of being refused upon any account, thus in the very crisis of her hopes, made her comply, and she betrayed the confidence of her husband, and signed away the inheritance of her child, to gratify a preposterous, untimely, ridiculous love.

The return she met with was just! Her new husband, now all his schemes were accomplished, scorned to preserve even the decency of appearance, but threw off the mask directly, and treated her with such indignity and contempt, that she broke from him in despair, in the first week of her marriage, and threw herself upon the mercy of her basely ruined son; whose resentment was not proof to such a trial; but, yielding to filial piety, he shared, with her, the poor pittance which he happily had independent of her, till she sunk under the weight of misfortune, shame, and remorse.

Nor did her husband treat his first benefactor or his parents better. With the former, he directly dropped all correspondence; and, giving the latter an allowance of twenty pounds a year, just to keep them from starving, he positively forbid their ever letting him hear from them more, on the penalty of forfeiting that, and every other instance of his favour.

Far from being satisfied with the success of his villainy, or enjoying the fortune he had so basely obtained, his whole life has been spent, as you see, in anxious attempts to hide the meanness of his original, under the splendour of his appearance; and the iniquity by which he acquired his wealth, by vain ostentation of charity and munificence.



CHAP. XV.

Continued: Some reflections that may appear impertinent to many, and unprofitable to more, but still are neither improper, nor unjust. The history of an honest attorney. More wonders! the way of the world reversed. Right triumphant over might; and gratitude shewn in high life.

MOVE your eye towards the lower end of the table, and behold that person, whose aspect and appearance command veneration and esteem. He was bred in a profession, the very name of which is become a reproach, from the abuse of unworthy professors. Nor can it be otherwise, while every low-bred person, who is just able to give a son the first rudiments of education, and ambitious of seeing him in the character of a gentleman, is admitted to breed him an attorney; and as soon as he has served a time, as to the most illiberal mechanic trade, to turn him loose upon the world, to live by the practice of the very crimes and iniquities, which his profession was originally instituted to suppress, without any fortune to save him from the necessity of having recourse to such base means; and without being instructed in the principles of probity and virtue, to support him against the temptations of the many frauds and villainies, which his business brings him to the knowledge of: Nay, so far from giving any attention to this indispensable duty, of forming the mind by proper instruction, such is the perverseness of man, that if a child betrays an early propensity to chicanery and fraud, by setting his play-fellows together by the ears, and cozening them of their toys, he is immedi-

ately marked for this profession, and, instead of being corrected for such a disposition, and having it nipped in the bud, is encouraged in it, by hearing it made the omen and ground of his future success in life, till it is confirmed beyond a sense of shame or remorse, and becomes the ruling principle of his life. The conduct, consequent to such education and principles, has brought the profession into so great disrepute, that scarce any person of character or fortune will breed a son to it; by which means the evil is daily aggravated more and more, and threatens to become absolutely irremediable at last. For, at present, so many are the opportunities that tempt to iniquity in the practice, and so universal the reproach affixed to the very name of an attorney, that all regard to reputation, that powerful preservative of virtue, seems to be in vain, and it requires a common rectitude of heart to support the conflict: But that there are some who are equal to this trial, and that the fault is not in the profession, but in the abuse of it, the person before us is an eminent instance.

A nobleman who died some time since without legitimate issue, thought proper to bequeath, not only his own great acquisitions, but also the immense possessions of his ancestors, to a spurious son, without ever considering whether there might not possibly remain some distant branches of his family, capable of inheriting what they must have a just and legal title to, though the direct line of it failed in himself. Accordingly the heir took possession of his adventitious fortune, and, as wealth hides every defect, entered into alliance, and made connections with persons of the most exalted rank, whose friendship and interest supported by the immense riches he possessed, seemed to hold every inquiry into the justice of his title to them in defiance.

But a generous heart is not easily terrified in a just

cause! The person before us, by his knowledge in his profession, and the uprightness of his practice, had acquired a fortune, and established a character, that placed him above the reach of slander, and the frown of power. He had been born under the patronage of this nobleman's house, and in the course of his business, had happened to get some insight into the settlements of his family, by which he found that it was not in his power to alienate the acquisitions of his illustrious ancestors, and give them to a stranger to their blood, while any of their descendants were in being. Such an act of injustice, therefore, raised the indignation and pity of his honest, generous heart, and he resolved to set it aside, notwithstanding the trouble and expence that must necessarily attend such an attempt.

The greatest discouragement to his undertaking, was the difficulty of finding out, and ascertaining the real heir, for the family was apparently extinct. But upon examining into the many alliances it had formerly made, which his known attachment gave him an easy opportunity of doing, he found that, some generations before, a daughter had been married to a nobleman, of a neighbouring dependent kingdom; the issue of which marriage, if any remained, was the true and only representative of this noble house.

Having made this discovery, he went directly over to that kingdom, where, after a long and painful search, he had the mortification to find, that the family was reduced, by revolutions of government, and calamity of the times, to two poor, low-bred, illiterate women, who had been married to mechanics of the meanest rank, and being left widows, and without children, now strove to procure a wretched subsistence, by joining their poor stocks to keep a chandler's shop, in a city in the remotest part of the kingdom.

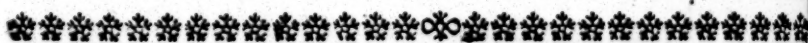
So melancholy an instance of the instability of human grandeur only raised his compassion, and confirmed his resolution to vindicate the blood of the illustrious patrons of his family, from such injustice and disgrace. Accordingly, he instantly relieved their immediate distresses, and, taking all the proper methods for ascertaining their descent, brought them over to this kingdom, lodged them in his own house, and treated them with the respect due to their noble blood and better hopes.

As soon as every thing was prepared for the great attempt, he regularly demanded a restitution of their right from the unjust possessor, and, upon his expected refusal, instituted a suit at law, for the recovery of it, in the prosecution of which, neither difficulties nor dangers, neither threats nor promises, could slacken his ardour, till he had obtained the justice he demanded for them. A detail of the proceedings, in such an affair, must be distressing to any human heart. It is sufficient to say, that every method which the art of man could invent to impose upon judgment and defeat justice, was exerted against him, for several years, in hopes of exhausting his fortune, and wearing out the lives of his injured clients (the elder of whom actually did die during the suit) and so disappointing his hopes. But justice at length prevailed, and he recovered, for them, the inheritance of their ancestors, leaving their antagonist only the immediate acquisitions of his reputed father, which, large as they are, he eagerly labours to increase, by every artifice of sordid avarice.

As for the heiress, the exalted gratitude she shewed, proved *her* noble blood. As soon as she had executed all the forms of law necessary, to give her an absolute power over her fortune, and justly paid the expence, and rewarded the trouble of recovering it, as every branch of her family was extinct, she thought

it but justice to settle her great fortune upon the generous recoverer of it. Nor was she content with leaving it to him, when she could no longer make use of it herself, but obliging him to quit the business of his profession, she gave the greater part of it into his immediate possession, and, retiring to one of the principal seats upon her estate, spent the remainder of her life in happiness and esteem; the goodness of her heart, and the true nobleness of her soul, drowning her want of early education, in the superior radiance of innate virtue.

The absolute possession of her entire fortune which her death gave him much sooner than he wished, has made no alteration in the conduct of this worthy person, who invariably pursues the dictates of justice and benevolence in all his actions, making his wealth a blessing to all, whose wants and virtues, marked them as objects worthy of his regard and assistance.



CHAP XVI.

Continued: The happy fruits of unequal marriages. A short way to pay long debts. The pleasures of polite life. A bold stroke of female genius, triumphant over law and religion; An unlucky mistake brings an improper visitor into too genteel company.

IMMEDIATELY below him, you see one of those instances of inconsistency which diversify the motley character of man. In the deep-sunk lines of his face, you may read learning and intense thought, the placid serenity of his eye, shews an heart warmed with piety and moral virtue; what pity, that a listless indolence of mind throws a shade over so bright a character, and, submission to the capricious yoke of

female tyranny, makes him passively guilty of the very folly and vices most immediately opposite to his own virtue and good sense !

The pious care of a good father, had so improved the eminent abilities with which nature had blessed this gentleman, by the most judicious education, that the promise of his youth gave hopes of his being an ornament and advantage to his age and country : but one indiscreet action overcast this pleasing prospect ; and, in its consequences, has brought him to be the insignificant thing you see.

This was a marriage of meer inclination, with a person, who had neither fortune, beauty, nor merit, to justify his choice ; and who yet has taken the unjustifiable advantage of this indolence of his temper, to usurp as absolute an authority over him, as if she possessed them all, in the most eminent degree, and conferred upon him the benefit and obligation she herself received.

This makes life one scene of the most irreconcilable inconsistency, between the wisdom and virtue of the very few actions, in which he is admitted to follow the dictates of his own judgment, and the follies and vices, into which she wantonly leads him every moment of his life. When I say vices, I mean those of dissipation, luxury, and extravagance ; which, though the most injurious to society, and productive of the worst consequences to particulars, are yet too often looked upon in another light, and thought harmless at least, if not even commendable exertions of greatness, and generosity of spirit, and the proper use of affluence of fortune ; for not content with the rational enjoyment of the fortune to which he raised her, in her proper sphere, she has assumed the absolute disposal of the whole, which she dissipates in every kind of fashionable folly and profusion, so as utterly to disable him from exerting the natural generosity and

benevolence of his heart, in the extent and manner suited to his apparent wealth, and too often, from discharging the moral obligations of honesty, in the payment of his just and necessary debts.

Such an ungrateful abuse of obligation and influence may appear strange to you, who have been so little conversant in the ways of man; but, to a more extended view of life, constant observation shews, that conferring a great benefit actually extinguishes gratitude, instead of raising it higher; and that the nearer the hands into which power is intrusted, the more exorbitant and tyrannical the use they make of it. Whether this arises from a consciousness of inability to pay so great a debt, and a consequent desire to cancel it, by an absolute breach that may, at the same time, also support the debtor's pride, and seem to hide the obligation, by an implied disavowal in the former case, and from a desire of returning the tyranny felt before, in the latter, would be a curious and not unprofitable disquisition, but shall be reserved to another place, where the occasion will illustrate it more forcibly; and only the justice of the observation as to the present case in particular, proved by a few out of innumerable instances of the same kind.

Of all the methods of dissipating wealth, and precipitating ruin, the most speedy and effectual is gaming. The present prevalence of the passion for this vice (for to call it by any other name would be a fallaciousness) among all ranks and sexes, has been already often observed, as it is in the characteristic of the times. However, to soften the horror, with which the barefaced practice of it, by the fairer sex, must strike every rational mind, it is blended with matter of meer amusement, and represented only as an innocent method of relieving conversation, when a number of persons meet in public company, which must otherwise languish and grow tiresome, or else fall u

in improper subjects. This ingenious expedient has given rise to those meetings, at the houses of the greatest fashion, which from the noise, bustle, and confusion, inseparable from such crouds, are emphatically called *Routs*. In these, the mistress of the house always presides, and, consequently, attendance at them is looked upon as a compliment peculiar to her, and in which her husband has no share. For this reason, the greater the croud collected, the more important the entertainer appears, and therefore, no pains or expence is spared in inducing them to attend. From the character already given of the wife of this gentleman, it may be concluded, that she exerted all her efforts, to make a figure, by the frequency and greatness of her own routs, and by the profusion with which she gamed away her money at those of others. However, the mode was become so universal, and so eagerly pursued, that she soon found it was impossible for her to distinguish herself in the manner she desired, she could not strike out some new way; but in this she was not long at a loss, the boldness of her genius prompting her to try an expedient, which no one before her had dared to venture upon.

This was to fix her routs upon the day set apart, by laws human and divine, for the duties of religion, and which till then, had been held sacred to these alone, from every kind of business and recreation. So bold a stroke necessarily attracted the notice of the public, and, the remissness of the legislator overlooking it, the crouds, who, from an insensibility to those duties, were utterly at a loss how to get rid of so much time, gladly embraced the opportunity, and flocked to her in numbers, that amply satisfied her ambition. Such success and impunity soon made her example imitated; but, as she had led the way, the merit of that secured her from being supplanted by

any rival, and having her company decoyed from her.

The circumstances of her husband's birth, and the principles in which he had been educated, made him at first look upon such, an insult upon religion, with the strongest horror: but she made light of his scruples, and over-ruled all his objections, with such an absolute authority, that, for peace sake, he was obliged to submit, and join in what he dared not contradict, till he has at length forfeited the acquaintance of every serious, rational, and religious person.

He was, at first, greatly affected at this falling off, and much distressed to think what it could proceed from, as he was not sensible of any deviation in his own sentiments, from the principles which had made his acquaintance sought by every man of sense and virtue; but an accident soon opened his eyes to the absurdity of his situation.

The acquaintance, upon which he justly set the greatest value, was with a prelate of distinguished merit and virtue, an intimate friend of his deceased father. With him he spent the happiest hours of his life; and, in the wisdom and piety of his conversation, found relief for his sick heart, from the follies and riotous excesses which he was a slave to at home. Though he always met with the most benevolent and friendly reception from this worthy person, yet the coolness with which he found himself treated by some others, made his apprehension so ready to take alarm, that, upon his grace's not returning a visit or two with the exactest punctuality, either from sickness or some necessary engagement, he could not help expressing his uneasiness, with such warmth, when he went to see him next, that his grace, who, though he despised ceremony, would not give pain or offence to any person, especially one for whom he had so sincere an esteem, accounted for his late omission

by giving the real reason of it, and told him that he would do himself the pleasure of going to see him any day when he might be sure of finding him at home.

The gentleman answered, that, if his grace would appoint any day agreeable and convenient to him, he should gladly break through all engagements, and attend to receive him. This was a strain of complaisance which the prelate would not agree to, but insisted upon knowing what day he was usually at home, when he would call upon him, in a friendly manner, without putting him to the trouble of waiting for him in particular.

The affectionate, sincere manner in which this was said, was so pleasing to the gentleman, that it put him entirely off his guard, and he answered eagerly, and without ever considering, that the next day was Sunday, when he was always at home. This was strictly true; he was always at home on that day, because it was his lady's day for seeing company; he had in the least reflected on which, he would never have appointed his grace to come, as he was sensible, that he should for ever forfeit his acquaintance by it.

Though that was a day which the prelate dedicated to employments of a very different nature from paying complimentary visits, there was something in the earnestness of the manner in which the gentleman appointed it, that made him apprehend he had some secret uneasiness upon his mind, which he wanted to communicate for assistance or advice, wherefore he complied without hesitation, nor did the other ever collect the impropriety of what he had done, till it was too late to be remedied.

For his grace going the next evening, as he had promised, was not a little surpris'd to find a croud of coaches before the door; for he had never heard of,

nor suspected the scene that was acting, but however, being informed that his friend was at home, he thought it best to proceed, and so, alighting from his chariot, was shewn up into a room, where there was a mixed multitude seriously engaged at cards.

The very mention of such a scene would have struck him with horror; judge then what his sentiments must be at the sight; and particularly to be betrayed to it, as he imagined, on purpose to insult him, by a man whom he esteemed, and whose father he had sincerely loved. As soon as he had recovered himself from his astonishment, he directly turned about and departed, just as he was perceived by the master of the house, whose confusion at his own indiscretion, in appointing such a time, which he instantly recollected, is not to be described. He started from his chair, and exclaiming. “Good God, what have I done?”—would have followed him directly, if his lady, with whom he was playing, and who was just then *dealing*, had not stopped him, and insisted on knowing what was the matter.

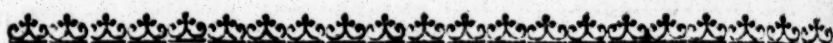
“Good God, madam (said he, in the utmost confusion and distress) did not you see his grace come to the door this moment? I was to pay him a visit yesterday, and unfortunately engaged him to return it this evening, without ever considering that it was *your night*.”—“And is that all (answered she who had gone on with her *deal*, and just turned up an ace) then pray sit still, and play your cards, you see *clubs are trumps*! his grace may come at a proper time, if he pleases!”—

Great as the husband's distress was, the accent with which these words were spoken, nailed him to his chair; so that he was forced to let his grace go home, and remain that night in an opinion so painful and injurious to him. But he laid not his head to rest, till he had written his grace a letter of apology.

gy for his mistake, which he candidly acknowledged, and conjured him to forgive, in the most earnest manner.

The imaginary insult, of being trepanned into such a scene, had at first provoked his grace beyond the usual evenness of his temper; but he had time to cool before he received the letter (for he never lay down in anger, nor arose but in charity with all mankind) and reading it dispassionately, was so moved at the situation into which he found his friend fallen, that all thoughts of personal resentment vanished, and he answered it with the greatest humanity and tenderness, drawing the folly and danger of such a complaisance in their proper strength, and urging his return to the practice of his own principles, with every argument of reason, virtue, and religion, promising to renew his acquaintance, with the same, or greater intimacy than before, as soon as he should desist from such an impious profanation and abuse of a day made sacred, to piety and devotion, by every civil and religious law; till he should do which, it was inconsistent with his character and principles to keep up any farther intercourse with a person in such circumstances.

The justice of this reasoning was acknowledged by the person to whom it was addressed, and the loss which followed the neglect of it, severely felt; but he wanted resolution to resume the authority, that was necessary for putting it in execution, and so poorly submits, against his better judgment, to all the impositions of a tyranny, which was first erected upon his folly, and still subsists by his indolence.



CHAP. XVII.

Continued: Confusion worse confounded, rout on rout: The transformation of a constable into a devil, introduces a story of the devil's terrifying a famous cardinal, by dancing in masquerade, and frightens a polite assembly into a fit of devotion, which lasts a whole night with most of them. A glimpse of the courage of a modern man of honour.

BUT, though such meetings as these are held in apparent defiance of the laws, you must not imagine, that those who go to them are insensible of the impropriety, or unapprehensive of the danger of such a conduct. By danger, I mean the immediate one, from the secular power, for that of the divine wrath they never give themselves the trouble of thinking about.

Of this a remarkable instance happened at this place, not very long after the affair of his grace. A gentleman of humour, as well as reason, who was intimate in this gentleman's family, and had often strove in vain to convince his lady of the disagreeable consequences that might attend such an avowed disregard to decency, at least, resolved to take another method, and try what effect ridicule and shame might have, where every argument from reason had failed.

Accordingly, one night in the midst of the riot, he contrived to have it whispered in the company, that a neighbouring *constable*, remarkable for punishing every offence, for which he did not receive a proper composition, intended to come with the churchwardens, and all the parish officers at his heels, and interrupt their diversion; and dressing himself exactly

like the constable, whom he nearly resembled in size and figure, and buckling on a wooden leg, like him, in he stalks among them, just as the servant announced his coming, by the name of the constable, whom he personated.

It is impossible to describe the astonishment and confusion of the whole company at such an attack ! Tho' there were several present, whose rank placed them above his authority, surprise and consciousness of their guilt so far deprived them of all resolution and presence of mind, that they joined in the just fear of the rest, and attempted to make an ignominious escape with them. The candles were all instantly put out, the windows broke open, and stars and ribbons were seen among the croud, that leaped into the court, and ran thro' the streets, without regarding dirt or cold, while the more timorous sex stood petrified with fear, uncertain which to face, shame or danger.

In the mean time, the pretended constable took the advantage to slip off his wooden leg, tye-wig, and long cloak, just as the servants had taken the alarm, and come in to see what was the matter, and so had an opportunity of enjoying the whole scene, without danger of being suspected for the author of it.

The first question which the lady of the house, whose active spirit first recovered itself, asked, was, What was become of the constable, and who let him in ? At the mention of a constable, the servants all stared, as not one of them knew any thing of him ; and the very servant, who had announced his entrance, declared he had never heard a word of him, for, as he had not told his office, not one of them had the least notion of such a person's presuming to come among them. But upon telling his name, and describing his appearance, their surprise was changed the

other way; they all remembered his entrance, but every one of them positively insisted that he had not gone back; so that the question now was, What could possibly have become of him? as his leaping out of the window, as the others had gallantly done, was neither necessary, nor indeed possible for him to do, maimed as he was.

While they were all forming sagacious conjectures, on so strange and unaccountable an affair, the metamorphosed constable, who had joined in the conversation, said to an old lady, who seemed more strongly affected than any other of the company, that the oddness of this affair put him in mind of one not very unlike it in many circumstances, which he had read, in accounts of good authority, to have happened in *France*, during the minority of *Lewis XIV.*

This raised the curiosity of all that heard him, who immediately crowded round him, and desired him to tell it. At first he seemed rather unwilling, and very gravely prefaced his story, with declaring, that for his part he believed nothing of the matter, though he owned it was related by writers of undoubted veracity, and attested in a manner almost beyond any fact he had ever read in history. Having thus prepared them for something extraordinary, he proceeded thus: "You know, Madam (addressing himself to the old lady, to whom he had first mentioned it, and whom he knew plumed herself not a little upon her knowledge in *secret* history, every thing that bore the name of which she had read, and implicitly believed every word of) that, in the minority of *Lewis the Great, Mazarine*, who governed the kingdom, took every method of diverting the attention of the young monarch from state affairs, by all kinds of pleasurable entertainments that could be devised."—"True, Sir," (answered the old lady, who could not possibly restrain her

desire of shewing her knowledge) “ And that is
 “ said to have influenced the conduct of his future
 “ life, in that expensive pomp and vain magnificence,
 “ which attracted the admiration of foreigners, while
 “ it exhausted and ruined his subjects. Hem ! hem !
 “ but I beg pardon, Sir ! pray don’t let me interrupt
 “ you.”—

“ As this *Mazarine* was an *Italian*, you know,
 “ Madam (continued he, to which she assented with
 “ a nod, as she constantly did) it was natural for him
 “ to have a fondness for the entertainments of his
 “ own country ; he therefore introduced the *Italian*
 “ opera into *France*. The first time it was presented
 “ one of the principle parts of the entertainment
 “ consisted of a comic dance that was performed by
 “ six of the nimblest caperers in all *Italy*. At first
 “ they went on expertly, and with great applause ;
 “ but immediately found themselves at a loss, and
 “ were unable to proceed any further, being put out
 “ by the intrusion of a strange dancer, who came
 “ among them no body could tell how, and discon-
 “ certed the entire scheme of their dance, which
 “ had been calculated only for their own number.
 “ This at length threw them into such confusion,
 “ that they were obliged to stand still ! when the
 “ manager of the entertainment coming to them, to
 “ see what was the matter, perceived the cause of
 “ their confusion, and obliged them all to unmask
 “ (for they were dressed exactly alike, and wore
 “ masks) that he might detect and seize the imperti-
 “ nent intruder ; when, to his and the utter asto-
 “ nishment of every one present, he vanished as un-
 “ accountably as he had come, tho’ the eyes of the
 “ whole house were upon him, and there appeared
 “ to be no more than the original number, and the
 “ same persons who began the dance. I believe,
 “ Madam, you may recollect the other circumstances

“ of the story, which I do not chuse to mention, on
“ this occasion; they are told in the *secret memoirs*
“ of cardinal *Mazarine*.”—“ I do, Sir, (returned
“ she, with great emotion) remember something of
“ it. But really”—“ Dear Madam, interrupted a-
“ nother, whose curiosity was raised too high to
“ bear a moment’s delay) pray let the gentleman pro-
“ ceed! When he has ended, if he omits any thing,
“ you may then inform us farther! Pray, Sir, do
“ proceed.”—

“ Why really, Madam, continued he, under some
“ apparent confusion) I am at a loss how to act, and
“ had much rather be excused; however, I must beg
“ leave to observe, that, for my own part, I do not
“ believe a single syllable of all the stories of ghosts,
“ and apparitions, and devils, and such-like stuff,
“ that ever were told; though this story in particular
“ is told in a manner, and confirmed with circum-
“ stances, not easy to be contradicted.”—

This solemn preface raised the curiosity of them all
to a torture, and alarmed apprehensions, that would
not admit of a moment’s suspense. “ Dear Sir, pray
“ proceed” (echoed from an hundred mouths at once,
as they pressed closer to him) “ the gentleman bowed
and continued; “ the whole company was now thrown
“ into a confusion as great as that of the dancers:
“ they had all reckoned a seventh person, and the
“ connoisseurs in particular, had observed that one
“ of them had shewn a greater agility, and cut
“ higher, than any one they had ever seen before,
“ and indeed than they thought it possible for any hu-
“ man person to do. This hint alarmed the whole
“ house, and it was immediately concluded, that the
“ devil had maliciously joined in the dance, on pur-
“ pose to spoil their sport: an opinion which one or
“ two unlucky circumstances seem to give weight to,
“ which were, that all the dancers had been dressed

“ like devils, the opera being, *The Fall of Man*, and
 “ the dance exhibited, as a triumph of the devils,
 “ upon the occasion, and that it was acted on a *Sun-*
 “ *day evening*. Trifling as these circumstances really
 “ were, they threw the whole audience into a con-
 “ sternation some directly fancied the candles burnt
 “ blue, others, that the place smelt strong of sulphur;
 “ and one more impudently foolish than all the rest,
 “ insisted, that he had observed the *cloven* foot; but
 “ what is most surprising of all, was, that the cardi-
 “ nal, who could not be suspected of superstition,
 “ was so affected by it, that he ordered the house to
 “ be dismissed directly, and that opera never to be
 “ performed again, nor any other, on a *Sunday*,
 “ which was observed during his life, and for some
 “ time after.”——

It is impossible for words to describe the situation of the company, at the conclusion of this story. At the mention of the candles burning blue, all turned their eyes about, and fancied the same; as to their smelling sulphur, it was more than imagination, the pretended constable having taken an opportunity, while they were all in confusion, to throw, unperceived, a composition which he had brought with him on purpose, into the fire, which had filled the room with a most sulphureous smell, and more than one of the company declared, *they thought* they saw a cloven foot, or something very like it fly out of the window.

The scene was now changed to an appearance really frightful. Every lengthened visage was as pale as death, every haggard eye staring in wild affright. The old lady to whom the tale had been particularly addressed, confirmed every syllable of it, and added many circumstances from secret histories, of her own immediate invention; and every one present had some similar story to tell in support of it; till they at length terrified one another to that degree, that they

were afraid to look around, or even to raise their voices to bid their servants prepare for their departure.

The gentlemen pleased at the success of his artifice, resolved to improve it to the utmost, and take advantage of their present situation, to work them up to some action, that should make them ashamed, at least, ever to be guilty of the like profanation of that sacred day again: "Defend us, heaven!" (exclaimed he, fixing his eyes with horror, on one of the windows) "What can that be?" This completed their terror: they all believed the devil was returning to destroy them, for the boldest of them all had not the spirit to turn her eyes, to see what he looked at, and joined most devoutly in his ejaculation to heaven for defence.

He saw this was the proper moment for what he intended, and so dropping suddenly upon his knees, in which they all followed his example, he repeated aloud the confession in the service of the church, adding, with particular emphasis, to the sins of commission, this of breaking the Sabbath, and to those of omission, the neglect of the duties of religion, to which it was devoted; and concluded with a solemn vow, never to be guilty of either again, if heaven would remit its wrath, and spare them for the present.

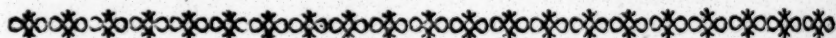
All the while he had been performing this ceremony, he had kept his eyes fixed upon the window, and, at the end of it, exclaimed in a rapture, "Our vows are heard! it vanishes! the danger is over!"—Upon which he arose, as did they all, and fell into a most serious and devout conversation, upon so signal an instance of divine favour and mercy, while their coaches and chairs were getting ready to carry them home, when they retired with thoughts very diffe-

rent from those which they usually brought from such places.

Though every lady in the company had been frightened into a fit of devotion, by what had happened, none suffered so severely by it as the lady of the house, who, notwithstanding the public contempt she shewed for religion, was so fearful of ghosts and hobgoblins, that after having persuaded her husband to lay out a large sum of money) much more than prudence would have permitted) in repairing and fitting up, in the modern taste, a beautiful antique castle that was upon his estate, upon hearing that a particular apartment in it was haunted by a spirit, quitted it directly, and never could be prevailed to sleep a second night in it. As soon, therefore, as the company were all gone, and she left to her own meditations, her fears recurred so fast upon her, that she fell into fits, which seemed to threaten her with the total loss of her reason, raving of devils and damnation, and railing against cards, and Sabbath breaking, with all the vehemence of a modern enthusiast, among his mad brethren in *Moorfields*. But this did not last long! the gentleman, to avoid detection, had been obliged to leave his tye-wig, cloak, and wooden leg behind him. These, which were found upon clearing out the apartments, unravelled the whole mystery of the affair, and shewed that it had been all a trick; nor was the lady long at a loss for the author of it; (for the first mention of the discovery had put an end to her fits of fear and devotion). the pains he had often taken to persuade her against these meetings, on this particular day, and the zeal he shewed in the late affair, convinced her it was all transacted by him. This threw her into the most violent rage against him; but it was impossible to prove, and he denied the fact when charged with it, she could have no other satisfaction of him, than that of disappointing his design, by re-

turning to her former practice with double eagerness, and aggravating the scandal of it by every act of irreligion and profaneness that she could devise, in which hopeful course she still persists.

As for the male part of the company, who had so manfully leaped out of the windows, and made their escape through the cold and dirt of the night; some of them caught colds, that cost them their noses, and one or two lost their lives in duels, which they fought in vindication of their characters, from so scandalous an aspersions, for it was thought proper to deny the whole story.



C H A P. XVIII.

Continued: Maternal tenderness of an uncommon kind. A most magnificent wedding disappointed, by an unhappy instance of female frailty. A new method of calculating general opinion. An unlucky accident changes a scene of joy into grief, and affords an useful caution to old age and infirmity, to guide their steps with proper care. A drawn battle. An instance of fell revenge makes room for a stranger, who restores general harmony.

NOR is she content with offering this flagrant insult to religion and law; the tenderest feelings of nature are also wantonly made the objects of her grossest ridicule, in the absurdity of which, to shew her matrimonial power in its utmost plenitude, she obliges her passive mate to bear his foolish part, and sacrifice common sense, as he had before done conscience, to her capricious tyranny.

As she has no children, upon whom she can display maternal care and love, she affects holding the important and inexpressible tenderness and duty of these,

in the lowest contempt; and, to shew this in the most glaring colours, prostitutes them upon some insignificant animal, in all the solemn pomp and parade of ceremony, usual on such occasions, to make the ridicule more striking.

The present worthy object of her affection is an *owl*, which she caresses and treats with all the endearments of a darling child; calling it the fondest names, talking to it for hours together, every *Sunday* morning, and entertaining her most intimate acquaintances with a particular detail of its engaging qualities and sensible actions! nor does her humour stop here; she dresses her favourite in all the fantastic extravagance of the mode, makes a complimentary inquiry after its health, part of the ceremonial of her acquaintance, and celebrates the anniversary of its birth, with the expensive magnificence of a public entertainment, when the dear creature is produced, with all the ceremony and state of a royal babe, to receive the praise and caresses of the company; and to finish the farce, her husband is obliged to act his part, and join with her in receiving the congratulations paid upon the happy occasion.

Perhaps you will imagine, that such an accountable caprice, is meant to expose the servility of complaisance, and shew to what an height it is capable of being strained, to gratify the humours of the rich. Such a conclusion is not unnatural, nor the general satire implied in it, unjust; but here, in respect to her, it does not hold, for she has no such aim in view, nor thinks of any thing beyond the immediate gratification of her own whim; on the contrary, she would be as ready to pay the same compliment to any of her acquaintance, if they required it: indeed, the share she makes her husband take in the ceremony, bears a different construction, and is plainly seen to be designed as a most severe and insolent ridicule upon him,

as it is no secret, that she imputes her want of children to his fault; a charge, which his blind submission to her will, makes not improbable.

But this is not the first instance of the extravagance of her humour, nor he the only one who has been made the object of public ridicule by it; though he has never missed of his share.

Before her present favourite, a cat engrossed her fondness in as eminent a degree, but unhappily lost that and her life together, by a slip of female frailty: for slighting the example of her mistress's chastity, she had taken an opportunity to carry on an intrigue with a cat in the neighbourhood, whom she used to meet in the evenings upon the leads of the house, while her mistress was abroad, and her own attendants engaged in parties of pleasure below stairs.

This unfortunately broke through all her mistress's great designs, who was just then in a treaty for a marriage, between her and the male favourite of a lady of quality in *Paris*, the preliminaries of which were all settled, and nothing remaining, but to determine where the wedding should be celebrated; she, for the honour of the sex, demanding, that the gallant should wait upon his mistress, and the other insisting upon the example of all royal marriages, where the bride goes to the bridegroom; a reason so just, that the heroine of our tale disputed it, only for form-sake, and was preparing to set out for *Paris*, with her husband and a grand retinue, to solemnize the wedding, as soon as the proxy, which had been proposed to be sent by the other party, should arrive.

Upon the first discovery of it, therefore, by apparent symptoms of the frail one's pregnancy, the whole house was in an uproar, every servant turned off, and a council of her most intimate friends directly summoned, to consider, what was to be done in such an emergency, and how the treaty of marriage could be

broke off, without giving offence to the other parties, or exposing her own disgrace. After much and mature deliberation, it was resolved to send an express immediately to *Paris*, to prevent the proxy's setting out, and to apologize for breaking of the marriage, on account of a pre-contract, into which madam *Grimalkin* had inconsiderately entered, without the knowledge of her mistress; and, to make this embassy the more respected and effectual, the person thought most proper to be sent upon it was her husband, who accordingly was obliged to set out on his journey directly, but was rescued from the ridicule of it, by a fit of the gout which arrested him at his first stage, so that he was forced to transfer the honour of the employment to his gentleman, who acquitted himself of it with great reputation.

But this was not the only distress, in which this unfortunate misbehaviour of the favourite involved her mistress. In the first transports of her rage, she had ordered her to be taken out of her presence, and publicly vowed that she would never see her more: but, when her resentment cooled a little, her former fondness returned, and she could not bear the thought of abandoning her, for a first fault, to the low life of a common cat, or depriving herself of the pleasure she enjoyed in her company. But the difficulty was how to receive her again into favour, consistently with the purity of her own character, and without seeming, in some measure, to countenance the incontinency she had been guilty of, by such lenity. While she was in this perplexity between delicacy and love, her instructor to the most important science of gaming, most luckily happened to pay her a morning visit, to give her a lecture, and to inform her of some new discoveries he had made in his mysterious art. As she knew that he was a nice casuist, the moment he approached

her toilet, she informed him of the whole affair, and desired his advice.

After taking some time to deliberate upon the case,
“ Madam (said the sage, shaking his hoary head,
“ and extending the fore-finger of his right hand)
“ this is a very difficult point to decide: however, I
“ have calculated the chances on each side, and have
“ found that the odds are as seven, one fourth, and
“ two fifteenths to five, nearly (for it would be too
“ great a trouble for you, to examine the proof of it
“ in more minute fractions) in favour of your receiv-
“ ing the offender into your good graces again, which
“ I prove thus, all the ladies in the world are liable
“ to some failing or other; now, as from weakness of
“ constitution, derived from the goodness of their fa-
“ milies, or brought on by their own intense applica-
“ tion, to the pleasures of polite life, there are
“ not above five out of almost eight, who are guilty
“ of this particular foible (I mean among people of
“ fashion, such as you converse with) it is evident
“ that there will be almost eight who will not condemn
“ your conduct, for five who will; it being the ge-
“ neral maxim, always to exclaim against the faults
“ of which we are guilty ourselves, to deceive the ge-
“ nerality of the world, and make an appearance of
“ our being innocent of them. If this reasoning
“ does not appear plain, I will draw it out at length,
“ and adapt the calculations to the general rules of
“ *Whist*, so that they may be proved by the cards, as
“ the method most familiar to you, to satisfy your
“ own scruples, and answer the objections of your
“ friends, for ladies cannot be too circumspect in af-
“ fairs of this kind, where so deep a stake is played
“ for. The scheme will not take up much time to
“ draw; nor be attended with much expence, not
“ above twenty pieces, or some such trifle; for you

" know I never am in the least unreasonable with my friends.——

This judicious solution was so agreeable to her, that she saw the justice of it directly, and embraced it without a moment's delay, ordering the poor delinquent to be immediately brought to her, and, after a little gentle chiding, almost killing it with her caresses. As to the sage casuist, she thanked him for his decision, and, having received his lecture, desired him to reduce his arguments into the form he proposed, as soon as he pleased, as she never had any objection to his demands, and then dispatched cards immediately to all her acquaintances, to inform them of the reconciliation, and invite them to an entertainment, which she gave on the happy occasion.

Accordingly they all attended, and poured out their compliments in the most polite profusion; but, in the height of their joy, an unfortunate accident happened, that changed their congratulation into condolence.

As the dear creature was handed about, to receive the caresses of the company, an elderly gentlewoman, to shew her extreme fondness for it, by keeping it as long as she could upon her bosom, would needs carry it herself to a lady of quality, who sat at the other side of the room, and desired to have it brought to her; but, striving to be more alert, than her paralytic tottering would permit, she fell at her length upon the floor, and almost crushed the poor animal to death.

You may conceive what a confusion this threw the whole company into: the cat screamed, the old lady roared, and the voice of all present echoed a general exclamation: and to heighten the distress, they all got up at once, and, rushing together to raise the fallen pair, hindered each other so, that they lay struggling in no very agreeable situation, or decent posture on

the floor; for the cat enraged at the injury she had received, exerted all her strength for revenge, and fixed her claws in the face and neck of her supposed enemy, growling with the most envenomed spite, which made the innocent author of her disaster roar, kick, and sprawl, with all her might, as she was unable to disengage herself from the claws of her furious adversary, or even rise from the ground where she lay.

At length, some of the company made a shift to raise, and part the combatants; when the poor gentlewoman was hurried to her chair, with her face and neck all in a stream of blood, the attention of the company being entirely taken up with the fright of the lady of the house, for the danger of her favourite.

The spirit and strength which she had shewed in revenging of the injury she had received, was some consolation to her mistress, as it seemed to shew that she could not have been very much hurt; but one of the company, happening to mention her condition, renewed her fright, and made her resolve instantly, to send for one of the most eminent male practitioners of the obstetric art, to inquire into the circumstances of her case, and administer any assistance that might be necessary, upon the unhappy occasion.

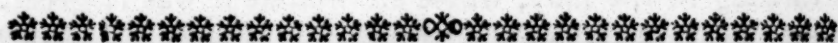
Accordingly, a servant was instantly dispatched, in the mistress's name to the doctor, who attended without a moment's delay, imagining, from the urgency of the message, that some lady of distinction might be taken ill in her house, as he knew the lady herself could have no occasion for him, and the footman could give him no farther information, than that some accident had happened in the company, of which there was the usual croud. As soon as he arrived, he was shewn directly into the drawing-room, whither the lady, with a few select friends, had re-

tired, where one of them leading him up to her, and lifting up an handkerchief, that covered the poor dear creature in her lap, opened the case to him, for the mistress's grief was so great, that she was not able to speak.

It is impossible to describe the rage, into which this threw the doctor: he looked upon it as an insult not to be forgiven; and, as he could not wreak his resentment upon ladies, by any act of violence upon their persons, resolved to shew it, by his treatment of the creature, for which they implored his assistance. Accordingly, he stooped very gravely, and taking it out of the mistress's lap, laid it on the ground, and, setting his heel upon its head, crushed it to death, before any one had time to interpose in its behalf; then turning to the lady, whose astonishment was so great, that she had no power to speak, "There, Madam! (said he) your favourite is delivered from all danger of abortion; but take care, how you provoke another time, the resentment of a man, whom nobody provokes with impunity."—Saying this, he turned about and marched away, leaving the whole company, and particularly the mistress of the innocent victim of his vengeance, in a condition not to be expressed: she wept, beat her breast, stamped with her feet upon the floor, and vowed the bitterest vengeance, nor is it easy to say, how far her passion might have transported her, had not a gentleman entered the room that very moment, with a young owl in his hand, which he had taken out of the nest that morning.

The sovereign remedy for a woman's grief, for the loss of any favourite, whether a cat, a sparrow, or an husband, is a new one. The sight of the owl instantly struck her: it had such a gravity and wisdom in its looks, that she resolved to make it the confidant

of all her secrets, and the only counsellor from whom she would take advice, that should contradict her inclinations. Accordingly, poor *Grimalkin* was ordered to be taken away, and the new favourite received in her place. This restored the general harmony and good humour; and the entertainment, that was designed to celebrate Mrs. *Puss*'s restoration to her mistress's bosom, served for the reception of the stranger. However, though a new favourite consoled the mistress for the loss of the former, she did not neglect to pay proper respect to its remains: the body was carefully laid up till next morning, when an eminent undertaker was sent for, and orders given for her decent interment.



CH A P. XIX.

More happy fruits of female government. The history of an eminent patroness of the polite arts. Her peculiar method of shewing a distinguished taste and judgment. An extraordinary charge in a bill at an inn.

TURN your eye now to the other side, and observe that superannuated figure of foppery, at the upper end of the table, who plumes himself like a peacock, upon the gaudiness of his dress, and gives his contribution with an ostentation, and affected dignity, that would disgrace a prince. He is another instance of the happy fruits of woman's government. With all the importance he assumes here, in his own house he is a perfect cypher, of no consequence in himself, but as he adds to that of his wife.

So insignificant a character may be thought incapable of affording, either instruction or improvement, sufficient to reward the trouble of displaying it; but

then it introduces another, to which it serves as a shade, to shew the glaring colours of it in a proper light, and illustrate the vanity, as the former did the vice, of female caprice and ambition.

He had the solid advantage of entering into life with a very affluent fortune; but instead of making it a means of happiness to himself, and benefit to society, by a rational and benevolent use; to gratify the most absurd avarice, he gave up every enjoyment of it, by marrying an heiress, the known vanity, impetuosity, and extravagance of whose temper, so far overbalanced the greatness of her wealth, that no man of reason and spirit, who had any other possibly way of earning a morsel of bread, would have linked his fate to her.

The consequence was just what he deserved. The moment he became her husband, she assumed the most absolute authority over him, and all he possessed, as if the words of their connection had been inverted, and he had made the covenant of duty and obedience to her; and instantly set up for the patroness of merit in all the fine arts and sciences, to shew her superiority of genius over the rest of her sex.

Such an ambition directly marked her out for a bubble to all the needy, sharpening adventurers, who, under the pretence of such merit, fly like locusts to this fantastic people, from every part of the globe, in swarms, that literally devour the fruits of the land in such a manner, as to starve the natives, who are engaged in the same pursuits, and thereby discourage and prevent their rising to that excellence, the want of which is objected to them.

For though there may not perhaps be any natural difference between the sexes in the abilities of mind, necessary to form a proper judgment of any science, yet the female labours under such disadvantages from a wrong education, that it is next to impossible for a

woman to exert the faculties of reason in any distinguished degree; the time, when the seeds of knowledge should be sown, being devoted to trifles or absurdities, that deserve a worse name, which by these means take such possession of the mind, as to influence the conduct of the whole life. Some rare instances indeed there are, of women, who break through this oppression, and rise above the prejudices of such an education, to a degree of eminence equal to the foremost of the other sex; but this requires such an uncommon strength of genius, as is indulged to very few; and was by no means the lot of this person: All her pretensions to taste and judgment, being founded on her ability to reward them liberally in others. But, even in this, her injudicious vanity has always marred the good effects of her generosity and wealth; for, not being able herself, to discern real merit, and disdaining to follow the opinions of others, for fear of passing unnoticed among the crowd, she blundered upon the most unlucky method of distinguishing herself, that ever entered into an human head; for, as if her opinion was of more weight than that of all the world beside, she sets up to contradict the voice of the public, and always patronizes those whom they reject and decry.

Such a conduct, as I said, naturally lays her open to the impositions of flattery and fraud: Though she professes a taste for all the finer arts, music is the particular object of her favour and encouragement: As soon as a new performer arrives, if he is in distress, as is almost always the case, he immediately waits upon this lady, to implore her patronage; this necessarily introduces a display of his abilities, which she never fails to reward munificently, and professes her approbation of, but cautiously, and in general terms only, that she may retract it afterwards, should the public unluckily join with her, for her opinion is al-

ways in the opposite scale to that of the rest of the world. But, if he is disapproved, she takes him under her immediate protection; she invites him constantly to her table, she supplies him with money, with the most boundless profusion, and makes parties among that croud of company, which her wealth and turn for expensive pleasure constantly collect about her to support him against the favourites of the public: and to shew, that she does this merely from a spirit of contradiction, should the most eminent of these fall off, or be eclipsed by the superior merit of a rival, she instantly forgets the animosities with which she pursued his success, and receives him into her protection and patronage, admiring his grossest faults, and praising the very defects she decried before; while her gentle mate is obliged to submit to this dissipation of his darling wealth, and to be the humble echo of her opinions, in all their various changes, without daring to interpose a word in vindication of his own judgment or authority; but thinking himself happy in being permitted to make use of the pittance of his fortune, which he thus contributes to public charities, to give him an opportunity of assuming the momentary consequence you see.

The many impositions which she has suffered from these rapacious sycophants, would be sufficient to make any person see the folly of such a conduct, who had not wilfully resolved against conviction. I shall just mention one instance, for the grossness and singularity of it, and so conclude the disagreeable representation.

To shew her elegant taste in this most pleasant entertainment, and raise an opinion of her importance, in the polite world, among her tenants and neighbours in the country, whither she retires for the summer, she always takes with her some of her favourite performers, who cannot fail to please persons who never had an opportunity of hearing any better; and

sometimes even will condescend, upon very particular occasions, as when she gives public entertainments, to comply so far with the taste of others, as to send for some of those who are highest in general repute; though her country seat is almost at the extremity of the kingdom; which makes the expence of such a compliment very considerable; for she defrays all the charge of travelling, besides giving a very genteel gratification for the trouble.

Upon an occasion of this kind, some little time since, she sent for a musician of note, to conduct a concert, which she designed to give her neighbours in the highest taste. The man, finding he had nothing to pay, an unlimited credit being established for him, at every stage upon the road, travelled down in the highest luxury to her house, where his performance was also rewarded with a very handsome present. But, whether he thought it unequal to his merit and trouble, or imagining that he should never be sent for thither again, resolved to make the most of the present opportunity; upon his return he took up money at every inn he stopped at on the road, upon the credit given him, and, where he lay, constantly prevailed upon one of the compliant females, who attended, to sleep with him, for a considerable gratification, which he also ordered to be charged to his bill, and left for this lady to pay.

Such an insult might be thought to merit her resentment; but as the punishing of it would open scenes, which must lay her under a necessity of discontinuing her favourite practice of sending for such persons, and expose her extravagance and taste, to public ridicule and censure, she thought proper to overlook it as unnoticed, and pay the bills, without seeming to examine into the particulars of them; and to prevent the story's receiving credit, should it happen to be made known, continued to countenance

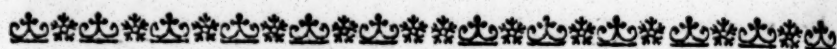
the man, and even invited him into the country with her the next summer, when he played her many tricks of the same kind, finding he escaped so easily after this.

I have dwelt so long upon the character of this and the former lady, to save myself trouble upon other occasions, as their actions afford a general representation of female life.—I mean the lives of those females, who, looking upon themselves as raised above the rest of their sex, by rank or fortune, think it necessary to shew their superiority, by breaking through all the rules, which reason and religion have established for their conduct.

How prevailing the force of such examples is, the instances just given sufficiently shew. Indeed, such is the implicit adoration paid to wealth, such the reigning passion, for joining in what is called good company, and partaking of their luxurious entertainments, that, let the rich and great propose any folly and vice, however gross and absurd, as the means of introduction to their tables and parties of pleasure, they will be sure of finding persons enough to comply with their humours. These instances are taken from the most licentious caprices, and absurd vanity of this ambition. The former admit of no excuse; and though the latter may be less blameable in themselves, and even bear a kind of resemblance to virtues in many cases, the success is not much better, nor ever sufficient to justify this ambition in females, to quit the subordinate sphere allotted them by nature, and strive to make a figure in the busier and more extensive province of man.

Nor is this the only useful instruction that may be drawn from a display of these characters. It shews also the ridiculous and unhappy situation into which man falls, when he poorly gives up the reins put into his hand by providence, and submits to the go-

vernment of a woman, whom he was born to command.



CHAP. XX.

An irremediable defect in human policy. The history of a most eminent personage. A new way of paying the debts of guardianship. A daughter's disobedience in refusing to comply with more than paternal love. The hero of the tale extracts profit from charity, and asserts the rights of agency, in defiance of public opinion and shame.

TAKE notice of the person immediately below him, whom I have just given you an account of. By his large athetic make, nature seemed to design him for some of the most laborious employments in life; but his genius led him to other pursuits, and made him depend upon the sharpness of his mind, rather than the strength of his body, for his support and advancement in the world.

The depravity of man makes many employments necessary in a community, for public safety and advantage, the execution of which is attended with so many circumstances of horror in the punishment of unhappy delinquents, that no man, who is not destitute of that sympathetic tenderness which is the highest honour of his nature, can bear to undertake them.

This throws them upon persons, speculatively speaking, the most unfit for such offices; whose poverty obliges them to practice, every iniquity of the profession into which they were first initiated by vice, and whose hearts are hardened by habit, against every sentiment of virtue and honour, every finer feeling of nature. Thus the hangman, whose crimes first reduced him to take up the horrid trade, continues it from distress, and puts to death wretched offenders, for facts which he is hourly guilty of him-

self, without compassion or remorse, till he is detected, and suffers the same punishment from another hand. But this is one of those defects of human policy, which no human art can remedy.

In an employment not very dissimilar in its nature, though dignified by a less opprobrious name, has this person displayed his abilities, for many years, to the astonishment of all who have been witnesses of his exploits. There is a mystery in such scenes too horrid for representation; I shall therefore pass them over, and barely relate a few anecdotes of his private life, which will sufficiently enable you to form a judgment of his whole character.

A man who, from one of the poorest employments by which a wretched life can be honestly sustained, came unexpectedly to the possession of a considerable fortune, by the death of a relation, who would have suffered him to perish for want of a morsel of bread, had some way conceived such a confidence in this person, that upon his own death, in a very little time after his elevation, he intrusted his orphan daughter to his care, together with what he had been able to save for her, during his short possession of his estate, the inheritance of it passing away, for want of his having male issue, to another branch of the family.

During the minority of his ward, he took care to educate her according to the direction of her father, in a decent, but frugal manner, as the fortune she had a right to expect, was not sufficient to place her above a necessity of industry and œconomy; but, upon her coming of age, he was obliged to act another part: He had spent the greater part of her fortune in his pleasures, for, strange to think! even he had a passion for the pleasures of polite life, and was admitted into the genteel company, to enjoy them, without any inquiry into his character or station, while he was able to bear the expence. Such a situation must have

been distressing to any other man, but the business of his profession soon suggested a method of disengaging himself, which his extensive principles made no objection to his putting in practice.

On the day, before she was to receive from him the fortune, which was the whole foundation of her future hopes in life, he shewed no signs of uneasiness, but confidently gave her notice, that he designed to pay her the moment she was intitled to receive it, and even appointed the other trustees of the will to meet at his house, and be witnesses to his punctual execution of his trust. Such a conduct naturally gave satisfaction to every person concerned, and entirely removed some apprehensions which they had entertained before. But they soon found reason to change their sentiments again. For, that very evening he took an occasion to go through a bye street, just after it became dark, and when he thought himself in no danger of being taken notice of, where he rolled himself in the kennel, battered his head against the stones, as if he had received several severe strokes, and scattered some papers he had in his pocket for the purpose, about the street, and then, and in that abused appearance, and with all the symptoms of affright and despair in his looks, ran into a neighbouring coffee-house, where he told the company, that he had been just knocked down, and robbed of a considerable sum of money, which he was to pay the next day.

Some of them instantly went to the place, in which he said this had happened, where they found his hat and wig, and the papers he had left for them, which at first gained credit to the story; but when the general tenor of his character, and the circumstances of his being to pay that sum the next day, came to be considered, the whole artifice was seen through, especially as he never offered to prove where he had received the money, nor gave any reason for his carrying such

a sum about him, the very bulk and weight of which, (for he said it was all in specie, to prevent too particular an inquiry about bank-notes) must have been a trouble and incumbrance to him; but barely alledged, that he had always kept the money by him in cash, ever since he had received it: and if any one expressed the least doubt of what he said, or desired to have these particulars better explained, he directly charged them with making insinuations injurious to his character and credit, which he threatened to vindicate by law.

Such a menace, from such a man, was not ineffectual! The injured lady was absolutely deprived of every means of doing herself justice; and, as the poor are ever friendless, no unconcerned person cared to enter into a dispute with one of his known experience, and who was acquainted with methods of putting his menaces into execution, which the most innocent might not find it easy to guard against; besides it was universally and well known, that, even if the whole affair could be detected, he was not able to make satisfaction. Thus every circumstance concurred to give success to his scheme, though not quite so smoothly as he could wish; and the poor young lady, having no redress, was obliged to return to the low state from which she had so lately been raised, and in which she still lives, a life of servitude; happy had she never been flattered with better hopes.

But, though he could escape the reach of man, divine justice was not to be defeated so, whose vengeance attacked him in so signal a manner, as plainly shewed the just retaliation of the unerring hand of Heaven.

Seared as his heart must be by such a life, to the more general feelings of humanity, nature was not quite debauched, and he felt the tenderness and fond anxiety of paternal love in all its force, for an only

daughter, on whose education, in all the polite accomplishments of the more exalted ranks of life, he spared neither pains nor expence, supporting and adorning her in the genteelest manner, and taking evident delight in lavishing, on such uses, all that he could acquire by every possible means.

Such a conduct, though carried to an excess, had something so amiable in it, that in some measure it palliated the blacker parts of his character, and even weakened the credit of many of the stories told of him. But just as he was beginning to enjoy the fruits of his care, by seeing his daughter's eminence in the accomplishments he had taken such pains to teach, universally acknowledged, an event happened, that not only deprived him of that pleasure, but also turned the merit of all his former fondness into the foulest reproach.

His daughter was observed, for some time, to bear the appearance of the most poignant distress. Whenever she was asked the cause of it, by any of her friends, she would melt into a flood of tears, nor would give any other answer, than that she was the most miserable of human beings. This raised a variety of conjectures, some of which were far from being advantageous to her. But at length the secret was revealed. She flew one day, in the utmost agony of distress, to a lady of her acquaintance, who had seemed to shew the liveliest sense of her grief, and begged her protection from the cruelty of her father, which, she said, was too great to be borne, ever since she had refused to gratify an impious passion which he had long entertained for her, and which had been the motive of all his care and expence in her education.

Such stories are so shocking to human nature that they are generally doubted; but his character gave such weight to any charge against him, that this

was universally believed. At first he made some efforts to induce his daughter to return to him ; but she was deaf to his solicitations, and, being destitute of every other means of support, threw herself upon the favour of the public, and lives by her skill in the accomplishments, which he took so much pains to have her taught. This was not only a severe mortification to his pride, but also made him be looked upon with such horror and detestation, that he has been ever since secluded from the society of every person of virtue or reputation.

I see you wonder at the inconsistency of such a persons appearing in the situation you see him at present, contributing to a public charity for the relief of the calamities of the poor. To one who can look no farther into man, than as he appears at the present moment, such a conduct justly appears unaccountable ; but consider, that these are the only places now open for him to mix with persons of character and fortune : for institutions of this kind make no distinction of persons, but receive indiscriminately, the benefactions of all who offer. Besides, a genius, so ready as his, can turn every action of life to advantage, and extract profit even from giving charity. One instance of this kind of address will prove the justice of this reflection, and shew that in every action of his life, he really preserves a consistency of character.

Some years ago, the sea broke over its banks, in a distant part of the kingdom, and not only laid the country waste for a great extent, but also threatened the ruin of the whole, if some means were not immediately applied to put a stop to it. Such an exigence required instant care ; the government sent workmen directly to repair the breach, who were obliged to struggle with all the severities of the season, in a most inhospitable climate, to effect their work,

it being the depth of winter, and the danger admitting of no delay.

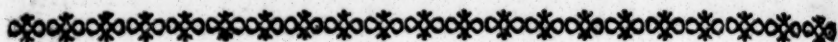
So severe a service naturally excited the compassion of this people, the most humane and generous under Heaven. Accordingly a public subscription was opened, to buy warm cloathing for the labourers, thus employed for the advantage of the public, which met with such general approbation, that a fund sufficient for that purpose was immediately raised. This person, from the reason hinted above, was one of the first subscribers, and appeared most active in promoting the scheme, offering frequently to undertake the most troublesome part of the conducting of it: But some of them, who were acquainted with his character, absolutely refused to let him interfere, in any manner that should give him the least power over the fund. However, as they did not think proper to make the motives of this caution public, he took an opportunity, one day, when they were indispensably obliged to be absent, to renew his offer, which his assiduity and success in soliciting subscriptions gave such weight to, that it was received, and he was appointed to purchase and send down some particular articles, that appeared to be immediately wanted, to pay for which, five hundred pounds were directly given into his hands.

This was what he had all along laboured for; accordingly, as soon as he received the money, he remitted of his assiduity, and came no more to their meetings, never taking the least care about the things, for the purpose of which it had been given to him. So flagrant an act of injustice raised the resentment of every one concerned; but that he was prepared for, and despised; and, when they required him to return the money, he gave them a bill for his own trouble, in which he charged every step he had ever gone, to solicit and promote the subscription, and

fees of agency for every shilling he had received and paid in the course of it, by which means he greatly over-balanced their demand.

Bare-faced as such an imposition was, they had no redress; for he had carefully made his charge according to the rates of his profession; and, though it had been always the intention of every one to bestow their labour as well as their money, without any lucrative view of return, yet, as he had never entered into an actual engagement, to that effect, there was now no possibility of defeating his charge.

Such an attempt can never be made with success a second time, as the first instance raises a general alarm. However, he still persists to join in every thing of the kind that is proposed, in hopes of seizing some such lucky opportunity as he did before. But it is easy to foresee that he will be disappointed, for though he exerts himself so strenuously, and takes upon him to offer his advice and direction, as you see, the prejudice against him is so strong, that every thing he says is suspected of design, every thing he proposes rejected, even without examining. Nay, so strong is the detestation of him grown, since this affair of his daughter, that some societies have refused him admission, and others even gone so far as to expel him, in the most ignominious manner, from among them.



CHAP. XXI.

The representation concluded with an eminent man-midwife.

His motives for taking up that profession, with some unfortunate anecdotes of his practice.

I SHALL now present you with a character, the folly of which is a shade to its virtues, and shews them through a medium of ridicule and contempt, more humbling to human vanity, than the most atrocious vice.

Observe that skeleton, that figure of famine, who even after a feast looks as if he had fasted for a month, and was just ready to perish for want. That is another of the principal promoters, and, indeed, supporters of public charity, from the best of motives; his benefactions always flowing from the benevolence of his heart, though too often qualified in the manner, by circumstances that throw both the gift and giver into ridicule.

For such is the benevolence of his temper, that, not satisfied with providing for the wants of the poor, he will see that the supplies which he bestows are applied in the manner he directs, which introduces him too familiarly into the domestic distresses of the unhappy, many of whom would rather perish for want, than make the circumstances of their wants known: nor is his fortune only devoted to those uses, his very personal service is always ready, particularly in some cases, where, unfortunately, a motive of a very different nature from his real one is too liable to be mistaken for it, by the malignant temper of the times.

There is no situation of human distress that calls so strongly for compassion and relief, as child birth.

How severe then must the case of those unhappy creatures be, who are left to struggle through such pangs, unassisted, unprovided with any of the comforts, so necessary to support nature in such a conflict.

A sense of this struck his humane heart! He felt the distress, and liberally supplied the relief. Well had he stoped here! But fearing that such relief should be misapplied, or insufficient, he would attend himself, to see that nothing was wanted; and at length to make his assistance compleat, learned the *obstetric* art, and now necessarily has more business in it, as he pays for being employed, by the benefactions he bestows, than any one member of the profession.

Laudable as this care and the motive of it are, it would have been much better, had not the sanguineness of his temper hurried him so far! had he been content to supply their wants, and let others, whose profession it more immediately is, administer relief. For now, what a field does it open for ill-natured ridicule, to see a man of his consequence descend to offices, in the ordinary acceptation of the world, so far beneath him? how easy is it to say! how easy to be believed, that idle curiosity, or some grosser motive prompts to such uncommon assiduity?

Nor is the evil of this indiscretion confined to him alone, it reflects a kind of ridicule upon the very virtue it would serve; and makes less sanguine minds refrain from the good, for fear they should also share in the reproach.—For it is not sufficient for a man to have the testimony of his own conscience for the rectitude of his intentions; there is also a debt of appearance due to the public, to avoid offence, and inculcate virtue by example.

One instance will illustrate this, and shew the inconveniences of his inconsiderate zeal.

A poor woman applied to him for relief some time

before the moment. According to his custom, he supplied her necessities, and took a direction where to call and see her. The woman, either mistaken herself, or tempted by distress to deceive him, told him a wrong time, which made him come too soon; and, as he always made her some charitable present whenever he came, she still found some complaints to induce him to repeat his visits.

At length, the frequency of his coming took the notice of the alley in which she lived, who could not conceive any honest business that a gentleman of his fine appearance could have with such a poor woman, in so obscure a place; and, as such remarks are always improved, some *friend* hinted to the woman's husband, a labouring man, who was out at his work all day, and therefore could not be witness of his disgrace, that his wife had *many* improper visitors come to her, and must certainly have taken to bad courses to encourage such doings.

The cuckold in imagination went directly home, in the greatest rage at his dishonour; but the name of the visitor, and an assurance that there came no other, soon pacified him, especially as a ready thought struck him, that he might turn the good man's humanity to an advantage, of a nature very different from what he designed; for the fellow was well supplied with what is called *mother-wit*, which want had sharpened, and freed from every restraint of honesty. He therefore sullenly told his wife, that it might be so as she said, but he would have a better proof than her word for it, and therefore she must let him see her visitor the next time he came, and, as she valued her life, assent to every thing which he, her husband, should do or say.

The readiness of her consent encouraged him to open his design to her, which her nuptial obedience and hopes of gain, made her not only give into,

but she also improved the scheme to a certainty of success.

The husband accordingly, having prepared some of his associates, placed them properly the next time the gentleman went to visit his wife, who immediately, upon his coming into the room, began to *cry out*, and implore his assistance.

Though the business came a little inconveniently upon him, as he was full dressed, he would not desert her in her distress, but directly set about giving her the necessary assistance, in the hurry of which, some unlucky stoop burst the string that tied his breeches behind, and down they fell about his heels.

Though this disaster disconcerted him a good deal, the cries of his patient would not give him time to adjust himself, but he was proceeding in his business, with the most anxious assiduity, when in rushed the husband, with a stroke that felled him, fettered as he was in his breeches, to the ground.

The scene was now changed! the woman, no longer in labour, cried only for revenge, *on the base man who attempted her virtue*, as the witnesses present attested, they had heard her before, and now caught him in the very fact; which the posture he was in, and above all, the circumstance of his breeches, too strongly confirmed, to the croud whom the noise had drawn together.

Terrified almost to death, at the threats of the enraged husband, who could hardly be held from taking personal vengeance that very moment, and sensible of the consequence, should public fame catch hold of such a tale, the poor *criminal* threw himself on his knees, and, convinced that all vindication of his innocence would be in vain, besought only a composition for his offence.

This was just what the parties wanted; but still to increase his terrors, and enhance the price of his ef-

cape, such difficulties were raised, as made him glad to yield to any terms they could impose; and accordingly, he not only purged himself having done any actual dishonour to her husband, for the intention they would not admit him to controvert, but also made satisfaction to his resentment for the attempt, with 100*l.* for which, as he had not such a sum immediately about him, he gave a draught on his banker, and waited in *dureffe*, till the arrival of it released him.

This misfortune made him more cautious for some time: but he begins to forget it now, and goes on *with his business* as before. One thing indeed he takes sufficient care about, and that is, that the waist of his breeches is properly secured: for so strong is the impression, which that accident made upon him, that he never walks a dozen steps without pulling them up.

You see most of them begin to nod, I shall therefore, draw the curtain here, and leave them to their nap, with this observation, that a few such examples as the clergyman, and many of the kind there are, particularly eminent in this exalted virtue of charity, in both the sexes, are sufficient to take off the prejudice which the others must excite, and to preserve the proper respect to the principles they propose to imitation.



C H A P. XXII.

Some account of the officers of the charity. Their care of themselves. They fall out about the division of the spoil. A terrible uproar is appeased by a demand of general concern. The concise manner of passing public accounts. Chrysal changes his service.

WHEN I had taken a sufficient view of the governors, I had leisure to turn my observations to the servants of the society, whose behaviour raised an indignation too strong to be expressed by words.

If the governors feasted they paid for their feasting; but the servants feasted no less, and were paid for it! nor was this enormity confined to this day: their whole time was one continued scene of it, and much the greater part of the contributions of the public was prostituted to this abominable abuse: while the poor, for whose relief they were given, too often languished in want of the meanest necessaries, the fund being insufficient for their wants, and the luxury and wages of their servants.

I was diverted from these reflections, by an uproar, in one of the private apartments of the house, where some of the superior servants had got together over a bottle of wine, to settle their respective dividends of the subscriptions of the day. I call them servants, for that is the proper appellation of all who serve for hire. As I was yet undisposed of, to any particular person, I had it in my power, as I have told you before, to range through the whole territories of the society, to which I belonged, and therefore flew to see what might be the cause of this riot, in so improper

a place, where I was witness, to such a scene, as almost transcends belief.

At the upper end of the table sat the *treasurer* (for it would be a reproach to the poorest society, to have fewer officers than the state) with his accounts before him. After a bumper, to the success of the charity, “Mr. Steward, said he, our subscriptions have been so good this year, that I think we may venture to enlarge our salaries, a little; for last year they were really scarce worth a gentleman’s acceptance.”

“That is true (replied the steward) and I believe we may enlarge the house allowance too, for, upon the present establishment, it is hardly enough for the days we meet here, and will not afford any thing to carry home, to entertain a friend with, as a gentleman would desire: It is but swelling some of the *sick articles*, which at present are scarce above the consumption. When I was overseer of the parish, we managed things better. We then lived like gentlemen; Nay, I remember when I was church warden, that we spent an whole summer, jaunting about the country, in pursuit of a gentleman, who had a child sworn to him, for fifty shillings which he had been ordered to pay, till the bill of our expences came to 15*l.* and yet no-body could say against it: So that it is our own fault, if we do not live well.”

“Right (joined the apothecary) nor was the appointment for medicines any way sufficient. Had half what the physicians prescrib’d been given, there would have been nothing to be got by the contract.”—“How, Mr. Apothecary (returned the cook, with a sneer) nothing to be got! pray, was not all you got clear gain? I am sure, from the benefit received by the patients, there did not ap-

“ pear to have been any thing above brick dust, or
 “ rotten post, in any of the stuffs they took !”

“ Pray S—S—Sir (stuttered the apothecary, in a
 “ rage) w—wh—what’s that you say ?” who m—m—
 “ made you a judge of medicines ?”—“ Not you, I
 “ thank God, Sir (said the cook) as my health shews.
 “ But I have good reason for what I say ; for though
 “ I put double the quantity of meat in my broth, I
 “ could not prevent the people’s dying, nor make
 “ the few who recovered, able to go out in twice the
 “ usual time. S—S—Sir, ’tis all a d—d—damn’d
 “ lie, their d—d—dying was occasioned by the p—
 “ p—poorness of the b—b—broth, and the badness
 “ of their p—p—provisions, and not by the w—w—
 “ want of medicines ; and I’ll prove it, Sir : and
 “ how you sup—p—p—ported your family on the
 “ m—m—meat that should have been d—d—dressed
 “ for the sick !”—“ You’ll prove it, Sir ! Take
 “ care that you do ! Gentlemen ! take notice of
 “ what he says ! This is striking at my character ;
 “ and must affect my bread.”

“ That is true, Mr. Cook (said the secretary, who
 “ had been an attorney’s clerk) and whatever strikes
 “ at a man’s character, so as to affect his bread, is
 “ actionable.” — “ B—b—but, Sir, he attacked
 “ my cha—cha—character first, and I’ll b—b—bring
 “ my action too.” — “ So you may, Sir, (replied the
 “ lawyer) the action will be on both sides”—The dis-
 pute had hitherto been kept up with such heat, that
 the company could not interpose a word to pacify
 them, but the mention of the law made it every one’s
 concern in a moment.—“ Silence, Gentlemen said
 “ the treasurer, raising slowly his august bulk, and
 “ striking his hand upon the table) Silence, I say,
 “ and let me hear no more of this brawling. Mr.
 “ Cook ! Mr. Apothecary ! what do you both mean ?
 “ to discover the secrets of our society, and to blow

“ us all up at once? You both heard me say, that
 “ every thing which was wrong, should be adjusted!
 “ could you not wait for that, without falling into
 “ this indecent, this unprofitable wrangle? As for
 “ you Mr. Secretary, the leaven of your profession
 “ will break out, it is sufficient to infect the whole
 “ mass! is this your promise, your oath? To follow
 “ your business, and do as you are ordered quietly
 “ and implicitly, without meddling any farther, or
 “ perplexing us with the tricks of your former trade?
 “ But it was in vain to expect it. A lawyer can as
 “ well live without food, as without fomenting
 “ quarrels, and setting his neighbours together by
 “ the ears: Bring an action indeed! and so betray
 “ our mystery, to the impertinent remarks of coun-
 “ sellors, and the scoffs of templars and attorneys
 “ clerks. Let me hear one word more of the kind,
 “ and this moment I declare off all connection, and
 “ leave every man to shift himself. Our general
 “ oath of secrecy, attested under our hands, secures
 “ me from information, as it would invalidate the
 “ testimony of us all.”

With these words he turned about, to leave the
 room, when the steward, catching him by the breast,
 pulled him into his chair, and holding him down, *by*
main force, addressed him thus: — Good God,
 “ Sir! what do you mean! to take notice of the
 “ warmth of madmen, who know not what they say:
 “ you, Mr. Treasurer, have mov’d in a higher sphere
 “ of life, and ought to be above such things. *You*
 “ were not raised from cleaning the shoe of a petti-
 “ fogging attorney in whose drudgery you lost your
 “ ears! from being scullion in a nobleman’s kitchen,
 “ or servant to a mountebank, to dispense his packets
 “ to the mob; *you* were not raised, I say, from any
 “ of these stations to the rank of a gentleman, by
 “ this office, and should be above taking offence at

“ the low lived behaviour of such creatures, who
 “ know no better.”——“ Nor w—w—w—was I full
 “ handed ten-times b—b—bankrupt,” [interrupted
 the apothecary, (as he would have done sooner, had
 rage left him power of utterance) “ that b—b—
 “ being unable to get credit any l—l—l—longer,
 “ came from cheating the p—p—p—public, to
 “ cheating the p—p—p—poor! nor a c—c—c—
 “ cast off, worn out, p—p—p—pimping footman,
 “ whose dirty services w—w—w—were rewarded
 “ with this place.”

This made the madness, general, and they were
 just going to proceed to blows, when the porter en-
 tered hastily, and told them the committee were ad-
 journed to their chamber, and had sent for their ac-
 counts, to sit upon them directly.

This brought them all to their senses, and made
 them friends in a moment. “ Gentlemen (said the
 “ treasurer) we have all been too hot, all to blame ;
 “ let there be no more of it ! let us agree among our-
 “ selves, and we may defy the world.”

Upon this a general shake of the hand put an end to
 the whole contest, and they proceeded to business, as
 if no such thing had ever happened, unanimous in
 their endeavours to cheat the public, and fatten on
 the spoils of the poor.

By that time the committee had sinoaked a pipe,
 and drank their coffee, the accounts were laid before
 them, over which they nodded a few moments, and
 then passed them without exception. The next thing
 was to pay the salaries of the officers, in which distri-
 bution it fell to my lot to be given to the chaplain.

End of the FIRST VOLUME.

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